THE

Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATHS.

On the 5th May, at his residence, Petersham, N.S.W., HENRY FORSTER, V.C., aged 64 years.

On the 26th May, at No. 56, Szechuen Road, Shanghai, AUGUSTUS WHITE, aged 65 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French mail of 1st May arrived per M.M. steamer *Annam* on 31st May (30 days); the American mail of 30th April per *City of Peking* arrived May 31st (31 days); and the English mail of the 8th ult. per P. & O. steamer *Massilia* arrived June 4th (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The number of plague cases in Hongkong from January 1st to date is returned at 1,014.

Soochow now prides itself on possessing policemen and lamp-posts.

A Chinaman has been murdered at Shanghai by a Portuguese who has been sent to Macao for trial.

The Hotel des Colonies, Ld., Shanghai, has paid a dividend of 6 per cent. on its first year's working.

It is evident that the Philippine Government intends to place the first of the new currency in circulation on 1st July.

The Tsar has conferred a decoration on Mr Foley of the Northern Chinese Railway for his services to the Russians in 1900.

Mr. Wyatt, the delegate of the Navy League, had a successful meeting in Hongkong this week under the presidency of H. E. the Governor.

The special Board of Oriental Studies at the University of Cambridge has reported to the Vice-Chancellor for presentation to the Senate a recommendation that Chinese should be included in the Oriental Language Tripos.

The death is announced at Yokohama from apoplexy of Mr. Simon Strauss, senior partner of the firm of S. Strauss & Co. of Yokohama and Kobe. Though of German birth, Mr. Strauss was a naturalised British subject and had resided in Japan for twenty-five years.

Kang Yu Wei, the Reformer in exile, arrived in Hongkong this week, believing himself to be in possession of an authoritative cable from the Emperor recalling him to imperial favour. Being convinced by his friends here that the telegram was a forgery he took the earliest steamer south again.

A telegram from Yunnanfu, the capital of Yunnan province, received in Shanghai, states, according to the *N.-C. Daily News* that Viceroy Ting Chên-to of that city ordered out on the 23rd ult., three battalions of troops with instructions to proceed with all haste to Lingan, where a mob of miners had murdered the prefect of the city.

Lieut.-Commander Hugh Rodman, U.S.N., has been appointed Governor of the Midway Islands, though at the time of his appointment they were without an inhabitant. The islands, two in number, are desolate bits of land about half-way between Honolulu and Guam and their sole importance lies in the fact that upon one of them is to be erected a cable station for the new American trans-Pacific cable now being laid. A steamer laden with materials for the construction of the requisite buildings has already left San Francisco and in a short time the newly made Governor will find himself in charge of a busy little colony.

The meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board this week was principally occupied with discussions on plague subjects. A letter was received from the Colonial Secretary expressing the hope of H. E. the Governor that upon reconsideration the Board would not deprive the people of their amusements by closing the Chinese theatres. The Board, however, reaffirmed their previous resolution by the casting vote of the Chairman. The subject of the dumping of dead bodies in the streets also received attention and a Sub-Committee was appointed to go into the matter. It was also resolved to establish branch hospitals in the City and Kowloon. It was further decided to purchase a Clayton machine for desinfecting ships. Certain stalls at the Western market were ordered to be closed owing to the discovery at plague infected poultry had been on sale there.

The fifth annual meeting of the China Mutual Life Insurance Co., Ld., was held at Shanghai last week, Mr. John Ford in the chair. In the course of his speech the Chairman said that the business had shown a very substantial increase over that of former years. In spite of the increased income it was decided to pay the same dividend as last year, *i.e.*, 8 per cent., in order that the Company might be still further strengthened during the next 12 months.

The *China Times* of the 25th ult. says that an interesting ceremony took place at the British Legation recently, when a magnificent lectern, in the form of an eagle, was dedicated in the Legation chapel. The Rev. E. Norris conducted the service. The lectern was the offering of Mr. Conger and the members of the American Legation staff, and of the American missions in Peking, as a thanksgiving for the protection extended to them within the British Legation during the siege. Mr. Conger delivered a powerful address, which made a deep impression upon those who were present. Owing to some misunderstanding very few people in Peking were aware of the occasion, and some who would have strongly desired to be present had no opportunity.

The Chinese paper *Hupao* publishes the following letter from Peking dated 18th ult.:— "As soon as the Government received news from Kwangsi reporting the presence of French troops within the Kwangsi borders there was much excitement, amounting to panic, amongst the members of the Government, as it was feared that the French were bent on pursuing a policy in the South similar to that of Russia in the North.—The French Consul in Kwangsi having recently telegraphed to the French Minister in Peking asking for a company of French troops to be sent into Kwangsi, we hear, received an unexpected reply from his Chief. The Minister censured the Consul for suggesting the matter and said that the latter ought not to have acted so reckelessly in allowing French troops to cross into Kwangsi."

It would appear from the latest Manila papers to hand that the Government has for some time been watching with suspicion the movements of Dr. Dominador Gomez, the Labour Leader in the Philippines whose arrest on several serious charges is reported. He is charged with directing an illegal association, misusing benefit funds, also brigandage and agitation by means of seditious plays calculated to disturb the peace. Only a fortnight ago Governor Taft addressed to the Labour Leader a strong and emphatic warning. He had applied to the Commission to extend a pardon to Guillermo, whom he designated as a revolutionary general, but whom the Governor says is correctly described as "a ladrone and a fugitive from justice on the charge of murder," and Governor Taft added: "Neither to him nor to any companion of his will a pardon be extended." The Governor warned Gomez that much information was coming to him that, taking advantage of the present unfortunate depressed state of agriculture and business, he was striving through the labour organisations to incite the ignorant classes of people to disorder by means of deftly-worded and staged seditious and treasonable dramas and in many other ways, and the warning continued: "In the operation of the machinery for the maintenance of law and order, it is not the dupes and victims who are likely to receive the severest punishment."

CHINESE AND SOUTH AFRICA.

(*Daily Press*, 30th May.)

We note, by REUTER's telegram of the 27th instant, that a mass meeting of the Chinese in Johannesburg has been held on the labour question there, and that it was decided to warn their compatriots against emigrating to South Africa, and to take comprehensive steps to disseminate the warning through China. This is undoubtedly a sensible decision, and we trust it will be carried out very thoroughly. For our part we are quite willing to assist in disseminating this warning to our Chinese friends. There are some countries in which Chinese labourers receive a warm welcome, and where they thrive exceedingly. These are primarily, the Malay peninsula, Siam, Borneo, Sarawak, Timor, and portions of the Netherlands Indies. They are not welcome in the Philippines (now that the islands have passed under American rule), though they do exceedingly well there; neither are they wanted in the Hawaiian Islands, though there, too, they find remunerative employment. In French Indo-China they are accorded a very grudging reception, but those admitted make money and prove good citizens But the French Government have had too much trouble with Chinese Black Flags and banditti from across the Yunnan frontier to feel very kindly towards Chinese or to regard them as desirable immigrants. Their cool reception in Tonkin, therefore, is not be wondered at. In Burmah the Chinese have always found ready employment and great numbers of them have settled down there, and intermarried with the Burmese. In Mexico, too, there seems a field for Chinese labour, but it will be well not to overdo it, or the natives will soon raise an outcry, just as the Americans in the States have done. In Australia, New Zealand, and Canada there is no scope for Chinese energies, as the colonists of these countries have fully determined that their territories shall be kept as preserves for the white man. The South African colonies, although they have a native population, and admit a small number of British Indians, are just as determined as the Australians to keep out the Chinese, and those Celestials who have emigrated to the Transvaal are doubtless painfully experiencing the fact that they are not wanted, and that things will be made uncomfortable for them if they remain. The labour trouble has been a very real one in South Africa, but it cannot be solved by the importation of Chinese. The best way of meeting it would be to secure immigrants from Scandinavia and Italy if natives are not available in sufficient numbers. In any case, however, it is useless to think of the Mongolian. He is not liked in South Africa, and he will not be allowed to enter in any numbers.

Colonel O'Moore Creagh, V.C., C.B., who whilst employed in China has held the local rank of major-general since August, 1900, is to be promoted to the substantive rank. General Creagh, since Sir Alfred Gaselee's departure in July, 1901, has been in responsible command of all the British troops in North China. In that position his name has come prominently under the notice of His Majesty's Government, and the step about to be granted him is in acknowledgment of the success of his military administration. His services are to be further recognised by his selection for a first-class district command in India. He will succeed Major-General Sir Richard Westmacott in charge of the Mhow District, Bombay, and will take up his duties on the earliest possible date, the military administration in North China passing from the hands of the Indian Office to those of the War Office from the day of his departure.

THE STRAITS CURRENCY.

(*Daily Press*, 1st June.)

The approval given by the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements with only one dissentient to the scheme formulated by the Straits Currency Committee is a matter of considerable interest to Hongkong, and will doubtless serve to hasten the appointment of the Committee of Enquiry which has been solicited by the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce. While it was fully expected that the Straits Legislature would approve the Committee's scheme, we gather from the latest Singapore papers, to hand that a final decision was not immediately expected, as in the words of the *Free Press*, "there are many points open to discussion, "and many details that may cause serious "harm to our trade if not foreseen and "provided against." In the little *brochure* by Mr. A. HUTTENBACH, reviewed in our columns a couple of months ago, the subject in all its bearings was excellently discussed. As our Singapore contemporary reminds its readers, according to Mr. HUTTENBACH's calculations half the trade of the Straits Settlements is done with countries who would, because co-using the Straits currency, be affected by any change in it. The author specially mentions the case of Deli and Acheen, whose trade is so important to Penang, and in this connection our contemporary quotes from a criticism of the book appearing in the *Deli Courant*, a paragraph which referring to the opinion expressed by Mr. HUTTENBACH that it looks as if Deli would go on using British and Mexican dollars, says:—"We would sincerely regret this: we con-"sider it of great importance that also for "Deli a fixed dollar rate should exist, the "more so as one can foresee that if the "Straits should adopt a dollar with a "fixed rate, the Government will at the "same time forbid the importation of dol-"lars. Then silver will go down still more "and the dollar still further depreciate. . . . "On the adoption of a gold basis in India "and Japan, silver at the beginning rose, "only to fall to a lower point afterwards. "It would not at all astonish us if the dol-"lar, after the regulation of the exchange "question in the Straits, should go down to "80. In any case Deli can derive no profit "by the maintenance of the Mexican dollar, "while it would have all the advantages o "a fixed dollar rate equal to that of the "Straits." We note that the Straits Colonial Secretary has recently been on a visit to Batavia and is stated to have consulted the Netherlands Indies officials on currency and other matters, and we may take it that the Straits Legislative Council, which, including H.E. the GOVERNOR, consists of sixteen members, would not have adopted with only one dissentient the scheme for a gold standard unless they felt amply assured that no serious harm to the trade of the Colony would follow, but rather that the change would be highly beneficial. Many of the arguments which have influenced the Currency Committee and Straits Legislature in favour of a gold standard apply with equal force to Hongkong, and we doubt whether the same Committee of Enquiry would see in the geographical situation of Hongkong an argument of sufficient weight to vary the terms of the verdict they have given in the case of the Straits Settlements. Of course, it would be more satisfactory if the Government of China could be influenced to put the currency of the whole Empire on a gold basis, but China is never in a hurry and Hongkong can hardly afford to wait until the Chinese Government finds itself prepared for the inevitable change.

MANCHURIA.

(*Daily Press*, 2nd June.)

It is evidently a high crime and misdemeanour to point out that Russia's acts do not entirely accord with her professions; and because the London *Times* has consistently done this the Russian Government, "in order to read the *Times* a lesson;" has gone the ludicrous length of expelling the *Times* representative from the country. It will not take the authorities at St. Petersburg long to discover how futile is the step they have taken, for the *Times* is certain to have unlimited sources of information which will now be availed of to a greater extent than ever before. If the truth were known, however, it is probably the *Times* correspondent at Peking whom the authorities at St. Petersburg would like above all to get rid of, for the present irritation has doubtless largely been brought about by the inconvenience and annoyance entailed on the Russian Foreign Office by the press despatches from Peking with reference to Russia's Manchurian demands. By the mail we get fuller details of the denials given by the Russian Foreign Office to the alleged demands telegraphed from Peking. On the 28th April a formal semi-official statement was issued at St. Petersburg which declared that the demands ascribed to Russia in telegrams from Peking were "simply invented." Then the statement proceeded:—"No change has occurred "in the intentions of Russia with reference "to Manchuria, and the exchange of views, "which is about to take place between the "Russian Minister and the Chinese Govern-"ment, can relate only to the measures to "be adopted for ensuring the preservation "of order and tranquillity, after the Russian "troops have marched out of the province. "Russia has absolutely no intention of "placing impediments in the way of foreign "trade." The statement that "no change "has occurred in the intentions of Russia "with reference to Manchuria" can well be believed, but we can only conclude that it is not, and never was, the intention of Russia to restore to China the absolute sovereignty of Manchuria. A German correspondent who has recently taken the trip through Manchuria, writes to the *Cologne Gazette* as follows:—"No one "who has seen the Manchurian railway, "with its bold track, its fortress-like "station buildings, and its admirable "bridge-work, will fail to recognise that "it is not possible for Russia to evacuate "the country." This conclusion has been irresistible to every traveller through the province; and there does not seem to be anything in the Russian Minister's assurances calculated to remove that impression. Count LAMSDORFF, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, assured the United States Ambassador that the telegraphed reports of the proposed Convention were "absolutely incorrect"; that there was no foundation for the report that Russia had demanded that China should refuse the requests of other Powers for Treaty Ports or Consulates in Manchuria; and the Minister gave the assurance that Russia has no intention to exclude other countries from the advantages which are now enjoyed in Manchuria, or to confer exclusive privileges on Russians, and that the United States may be sure that nothing will be done to close the doors now open. The doors *now open* and the advantages *now* enjoyed by other countries in Manchuria are very few indeed, and it would be more to the point if an answer were given to the question: Are the doors which are not "now open" to

be unlocked for the admission of other than Russian trade?

The truth of the matter seems to be that the Russian Foreign Office is singularly ill-informed by its representatives at Peking of what negotiations are proceeding there. Lord CRANBORNE in the House of Commons on April 30th stated that His Majsty's Government had received from trustworthy sources confirmation of the statement that the Russian Government had announced that they had no knowledge of the reported Convention. Yet Russia was able to say that the alleged demands were "simply invented." To the United States Ambassador they were described as being "absolutely incorrect," which would seem to point to the conclusion that the Russian Government was not altogether so innocent as the British Government had been led to believe. Diplomatic secrets, so far as the Chinese Government is concerned, are not well kept in Peking, and consequently, the demands made by the Russian Minister became public property before apparently even the Foreign Office at St. Petersburg had been made fully aware of the precise terms, and thus the Russian Government has been obliged to renew its pledges not to seek exclusive privileges in Manchuria; and the British Government has been assured that Russia has no intention of departing from the assurances previously given in regard to that province. *Nous verrons.*

INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

(*Daily Press*, 3rd June.)

Last year Mr. A. MOSELY did one of those quiet, unobtrusive acts which often in their results serve to make or mar a country. He offered to pay the travelling expenses of a number of delegates from the Trade Unions of England who were to go over to the United States, and examine for themselves the conditions and mutual relationships of employer and employed, and find out whether there was any truth in the statements that have recently been made that many of the industrial arts were passing from Great Britain and making a home for themselves in the States; in case this should be the fact, then to examine from their own point of view the causes that were at work in inducing this transfer from one side of the Atlantic to another of industries in which the British workman up till recently found himself unchallenged. No pressure was put on the delegates to bias their opinions one way or the other, so that the series of reports which have recently been published may be looked upon as a fair expression of the views of the working classes on the topics proposed. Many people have expressed themselves disappointed by the results, mainly on account of the want of unity amongst the members; a further consideration of the conditions proposed will, however, go far to disabuse the mind of the impartial reader of any such opinion, and will go far to prove the *bonâ fides* of the whole. It would, in fact, be a very suspicious circumstance, and imply some foregone conclusion, did the various members of the delegation produce reports that could in any way be made to bear the semblance of having been made to order, and so as to give utterance to the views of one or other party amongst the working classes. Even on the general question of the momentary superiority or the reverse of American over British ways there is room for great divergence of opinion; and the fact of these divergencies goes far to prove that while there has been a great and steady rise in the industries of the States which come into immediate competition with those of the old country, the increase has neither been so marked nor so great as many of our pessimists have lately been asserting. It is a fact, and this is not denied by the majority of the reports, that American industries have lately been progressing at a far greater speed in the States than in England, though the question is still an open one as to whether the cause is to be sought in some more favourable condition existing in the States, or whether it is not the effect of a general equalisation of conditions, which will in time adjust themselves, when the two nations have come more nearly to a general equality of condition. Up to this, taking population and opportunities into consideration, the British workmen may have perhaps had the better of the situation; and it may be that when both are placed on an equality the rate of progress of each may approach nearer to the mean. There is, of course, a good deal that may be attributed to *vis inertia*. The British workman has at his back the steady, if slow, growth of years; the American to get started at all has had to apply an enormous initial force, the bulk of which is as yet undissipated, but which in proportion to the work actually being done is being drawn on daily, and bids fair to be exhausted by the time affairs come to balance. There is, of course, a certain amount of reason in this contention; and this would naturally be the view which would most readily lend itself to the judgment of the trades unions. It is, however, none the less the fact, and a fact that tends in favour of the honesty of the delegates, that the majority of the reports do seem to indicate a better state of feeling towards one another as existing in the States between employer and employed. In certain respects the employers, and in others the employees may take to themselves credit for the fact. The English working man complains, and apparently with some show of reason, that the masters are ever ready to seize the entire advantage of any improvement in the method of working; that if, *e.g.*, when doing piecework an employee by superior diligence succeeds in earning a higher wage than his neighbours, the employer, instead of leaving the benefit to him, invariably takes the first opportunity of cutting down rates so that his average earnings in the end come to no more than the ordinary day-worker's. The consequence is not only to create a steady opposition to piecework in the mind of the worker, but to encourage the habit, already too strong, of the workman persistently doing less work than his best. The American master, on the contrary, according to the delegates, finds it to his advantage to stick to his agreement, with the result being the working man has no interest in worthat under his capacity, and does in fact habitually turn out a larger quantity of finished work than his English fellow. Another reason for this has probably been exaggerated in all the reports, and proceeds more from the circumstances of the case than from any settled design, and that is the greater rapidity of advancement in America than England. The American is pictured as always going about his shop "prospecting for talent" amongst the workmen. This is probably the case more than in England, but on the other hand the demand for labour on the western continent is, and has been for some time, rather brisker than in England, and promotion in the natural course of events is quicker where the demand is in excess of the supply; so that this may probably be discounted as but a temporary condition brought about by exceptional circumstances. We have not space to go into the other topics raised, of superior education, longer hours of work, less time devoted to sports, less gambling and drunkenness, &c., but the body of the reports gives the impression that on the whole the working conditions are a shade better in the States than in England, but only a shade, and that the main reasons for the recent growth is to be sought in the artificial stimulus given to local manufactures by the fiscal laws of the States. How long this stimulus will have a beneficial effect on manufactures is the main point at issue. All schools of political economists agree that under certain conditions protection may be useful in building up industries; but the majority of English economists hold that the stimulus is not permanent, and is bound sooner or later to be followed by a proportionate period of undue depression. This is, in fact, the stage on which the old controversy has entered; and the stage is sufficiently wide to afford ample room for the combatants of both parties to exercise their amplest skill.

THE NAVY LEAGUE MEETING.

(*Daily Press*, 4th June.)

The meeting of the Navy League at the City Hall, on Tuesday, was enthusiastic and appreciative, and the attendance, for Hongkong on a hot day, when the attractions of a cool swim were so obvious, was fairly good. Mr. WYATT's remarks were listened to with the greatest interest, as he traced the rise of Britain as a sea power and pointed out, in simple but forcible terms, the necessity, after winning the mastery of the sea, for preserving the same by the maintenance of an adequate Navy. His Excellency the GOVERNOR also made a great point when he drew attention to the fact that the efforts of the Navy League were really directed to maintain the priceless blessings of peace. The Navy League was, he considered, the greatest Peace Society in the world. This was most entirely the right note to take. Whatever misgivings we may have for the future, born of the ceaseless strivings of the nations and, more particularly, the restless aggression of Russia, all members of the Navy League must ever continue to cherish the hope that the evil day when a great—and we fear it would be a titanic—struggle is provoked, may be indefinitely postponed by a judicious state of preparedness on the part of Great Britain that will daunt attack. The truest way to ensure the continuance of peace is to be prepared for war. It is the policy of the Navy League to unceasingly press home this truth upon the British Government, to urge without cessation or pause that the first line of defence be maintained sufficient and efficient, and that in no department shall the Admiralty ever be caught napping. We cannot afford to allow this great and costly insurance of our commerce afloat to become in any particular invalid or ineffective. Our arms must be bright, our plans up to date, our ships of the first and best description, and it must be an article of faith that no invention afloat or ashore be allowed to go past us, no matter how heavy the cost or how difficult the acquisition of it may be. These are the aims and aspirations of the Navy League, and they are inspired solely by the fervent desire to animate the Government with that unresting care for the great bulwark of our power that will enable us to hold what our forefathers have bequeathed and to secure which such heroic deeds have been performed.

We think that perhaps a little omission was made at the meeting, due probably to

the evident desire shown not to protract it. We refer to the fact that no invitation was given to those non-members present to come forward and join the League. His Excellency the GOVERNOR mentioned in the course of his remarks, that only about one quarter of the male British population of the Colony were at present on the roll of members, so that there is plenty of scope for a large increase in the membership. We should like to think that every Briton who values the glorious heritage handed down to him from the days of BLAKE and NELSON is a member of the League. We do not by this mean British born only, but all British subjects—of whatever race or creed—who enjoy the privileges and security which citizen-ship of this great Empire confers, for they are now equally concerned with English, Scotch, Irish or Welsh in maintaining the great arm of defence on which is founded that security, that peace, those equal laws and just government which are to be found beneath the Union Jack. Not for one moment do we propose, in writing in this strain, either to unduly vaunt the British name, to inflate our own importance, or to regard other nations with less friendliness. But the Navy League is of course an institution with which Britishers only are concerned, and they are so nearly concerned therein that they should all belong to and assist to sustain it. Even those who are members of the Peace Society and are opposed to war on any terms or under any conditions, might well join the League, since it is, as Sir HENRY BLAKE has so clearly pointed out, really a potent factor in the preservation of peace.

REBELLION IN YUNNAN.

(*Daily Press*, 4th June.)

The rebellion in Yunnan recently announced by REUTER turns out to be of rather insignificant origin and dimensions. Linan-fu is the centre of a mining district, and it seems that the so-called rebellion was merely an outbreak amongst the miners, moved thereto either by the scarcity and dearness of rice or on account of the imposition of new taxes, which is always resented by the natives and may have been levied in a manner specially objectionable to them. The mob rose and murdered the prefect, and committed other acts of violence, but the demonstration was neither political nor religious, nor anti-dynastic, nor was it in any way connected with the rebellion in Kwangsi. On receipt of the news of the disturbance at Yunnan-fu, the Viceroy ordered three battalions of troops to proceed to Linan-fu on the 23rd ult., and this force would no doubt prove amply sufficient to deal with the rioters and suppress the movement, if indeed it had not already subsided. There was nothing in the outbreak to occasion alarm except locally. The district of Linan is famous for the production of copper ore, the variety known as *pai-tung* or white copper.

It is reported in local mandarin circles, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, to the effect that the Shanghai Taotai has received secret instructions from Peking through the high authorities at Nanking to find out the names of the men who called the public meetings at Chang Su-ho's gardens, a short time ago, and at the Canton Guild, on Ningpo Road, to protest against the action of Governor WANG Chin-chi in regarding Kwangsi, and the conduct of the Russians in Manchuria. It is further stated that attempts are to be made to arrest and punish some of the men who spoke at these meetings.

CABLE RATES.

(*Daily Press*, 5th June.)

The cable which will connect America with the Far East *via* Hawaii, Midway and Guam Islands and Manila is making steady progress towards completion, and this fact gives especial interest to the meetings of the Cable Companies who have up to the present enjoyed the monopoly of cable business with the Far East. No allusion, however, appears to have been made to this important matter by the Chairman of the Eastern Extension, Australasia and China Telegraph Company at the half-yearly meeting of shareholders in London last month, but the Chairman of the Northern Company felt it to be a duty to remind the shareholders of his Company that when the American line is opened for traffic, it would create "a most serious competition" with the old routes belonging to both the Northern and the Eastern Telegraph Companies. "The competition," he added, "will probably be still "more severe when the contemplated "German, Dutch, and French submarine cables have been laid, as these "cables are intended to form branch lines "and feeders for the new route. At the "same time," he went on to say, "we "are on the eve of some very considerable "tariff reductions, the extent of which will "only be determined at the International "Telegraph Conference meeting in London." The Company's customers in the Far East can hardly be expected to exhibit much sympathy with these wailings. We have grumbled for years over the abnormally high rates charged for cables to the Far East, but the Companies have remained deaf to these complaints until competition perilously threatens, and now we get from the Chairman of the Northern Company the tardy admission that tariff reductions to the Far East are to a certain extent justified, "the present rates for Far East traffic "being rather high." We should think so indeed; but the admission on the part of the Cable Companies might have been made earlier with better grace. We gather from the Chairman's remarks, however, that the competition of the Commercial Pacific Cable Company is not likely to be a "cut-throat" competition, for after prolonged negotiations the Chairman was able to announce that the Northern Company had at last come to a provisional understanding, which although necessitating considerable sacrifices on the part of the Northern Company, will secure satisfactory working arrangements and possibly still more intimate relations with the parties concerned. At all events, even though the reduction of tariff rates were not to be dealt with by the forthcoming International Telegraph Conference, commercial men in the Far East might certainly look forward with confidence to an early reduction of rates as the result of competition.

Another announcement of importance to the Far East made by the Chairman of the Northern Company is that negotiations have been successfully concluded with China enabling the Northern Company to take over the working of the Peking-Kiachta-Irkutsk line, which is the shortest and most direct route between Europe and the Far East. It has been open since the beginning of the year for "limitrophe traffic" between Russia and China, but it will not be open for all traffic until the working between Irkutsk and the western frontier of Russia has been considerably improved. When that is done the shareholders of the Northern Company should be able to meet the new competition with reasonable prospect of being able to hold their own.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 4th inst. in the Board Room. Present:—The President (Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson, P. M.O.), Vice-President (Hon. W. Chatham, D.P.W.). Mr. C. McI. Messer, R.G., Capt. Lyons, Acting C. S. P., Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Col. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. A Rumjahn, Mr. Fung Wa Chun Mr. Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearse, Acting M.O.H., and Mr. G. A. Woodcock, Secretary.

CHINESE THEATRES.

A letter was submitted from the Colonial Secretary relative to the recommendation of the Board for the closing of Chinese theatres during the plague season. In this communication it was stated that the recommendation was to a certain extent based upon the assumption that the closing of the theatres in 1901 had some effect upon the course of the epidemic. These theatres are large and well ventilated structures and assuming that each accommodates about 2,000 persons the two theatres in Victoria would remove for several hours 4,000 persons to a place of rational amusement—persons who would otherwise be congregated in the already too-congested tenements. His Excellency hoped that on further consideration the Board would agree that in time of epidemic it was not well, if it could be avoided, to deprive the people of amusements. He fully agreed that the theatres should be thoroughly cleansed, and suggested that a temporary resolution that all persons attending the theatres should wear shoes might possibly be of use in the event of plague bacilli being expectorated by any of the audience.

Mr. POLLOCK—With reference to this point, sir, you will remember that the reason the recommendation was sent to the Government was that, as you stated, sir, in your opinion the herding of Chinese together in Chinese theatres was likely to lead to the dissemination of plague. Unless, sir, you see any reason to modify that opinion, it seems to me that the recommendation originally made by the Board must stand.

Col. WEBB—I think that when the resolution was passed there was more plague than now.

The PRESIDENT—In reply to Col. Webb, I do not think that there is any marked difference in the number of cases between the date that we made this recommendation to the Government and now, and I still think that the herding together of masses of the people such as of necessity occurs in Chinese theatres is inadvisable during the prevalence of an epidemic. The recommendation of the Board has been forwarded to the Government, and this is practically the reply of the Government. They have considered the matter fully, I presume, and unless some member wishes to make any remarks in reply to this letter, I propose to lay it on the table.

Mr. POLLOCK—I beg to move, sir, that this Board adhere to the recommendation they originally made to the Government—that these theatres be closed during plague time.

Col. WEBB—As plague appears to be a disease which is spread by bad air, bad ventilation, and overcrowding, I beg to second the proposal.

On a division, four voted for the motion and four against, as follows:—

For—Mr. Pollock, Col. Webb, the President, and Mr. Messer.

Against—The Vice-President, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Lau Chu Pak, and Mr. Rumjahn.

Mr. POLLOCK—The President has the casting vote.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—It isn't necessary for him to exercise his casting vote. (Laughter.)

The PRESIDENT gave his casting vote in favour of the motion, so that the original recommendation of the Board stands.

DISINFECTING SHIPS.

A letter was submitted from the Colonial Secretary enquiring whether the Board required a Clayton machine for the purpose of disinfecting ships, and asking the Board to furnish the Government with a list of sites recommended for the erection of public urinals and latrines.

Mr. H. E. Pollock minuted:—"The Battery Path urinal is a disgrace to the community in its present condition."

The PRESIDENT, in reply to Mr. Pollock's minute, said that the urinal in question is to be closed in a few days, the one in Ice House Lane have having been erected in its place.

Mr. POLLOCK—I am very glad to hear it.

Continuing, the PRESIDENT said that with reference to the letter from the Colonial Secretary regarding the advisability of purchasing for the use of the Colony a Clayton apparatus for the disinfecting of ships, the matter was considered by the Board in 1902 and a recommendation made to the Government to obtain one of these machines. The matter was then referred to the Chamber of Commerce, which body decided that it was impracticable to use the machine here because so few ships made this their terminal port and it was only applicable to ships from which most of the cargo had been removed. Professor Simpson first suggested the advisability of having such an apparatus in the Colony. It would undoubtedly be useful, the President thought, in the case of ships arriving from infected ports. Only a few weeks ago an Indian on the *Arratoon Apcar* developed plague within 24 hours of the steamer's arrival, and the presumption was he must have contracted the disease elsewhere than in Hongkong.

Mr. POLLOCK asked what disinfectant was used.

The PRESIDENT replied that the apparatus was for generating sulphur-dioxide gas. Its cost was about £800 and it would have to be employed on a lighter. The gas was pumped into the hold and killed every rat on board. The apparatus was in use in the port of London and had proved most successful in destroying rats. It was acknowledged by scientists who had studied the question that there was some connection between rat plague and human plague, and in the circumstances it would be advisable to recommend the Government to obtain a Clayton apparatus.

Mr. POLLOCK—What was the nature of the Chamber of Commerce objection?

The PRESIDENT—The necessary detention of steamers while the cargo is being taken out of the ship.

Mr. POLLOCK—The cargo would have to be taken out altogether?

The PRESIDENT—Yes. There is another point with reference to this, and that is the advisability of using this apparatus on ships leaving Hongkong during plague periods, in order that we might not contaminate any neighbouring ports. This point was raised by Dr. Clark in the Board in the original discussion. I move that the Board recommend that one of these machines for the purpose of disinfecting ships be obtained from England.

Col. WEBB seconded.

The VICE-PRESIDENT was of opinion that one apparatus would not be enough for the shipping that frequents this port; at least two or three would probably be required. The expenses, too, were not confined merely to having the apparatus on board the lighter; there must be some motive power to take the lighter to the ships, which could not be expected to be brought to the apparatus. The expense attaching to the scheme was extremely high, and the matter required very careful consideration before the Board took any definite step.

The PRESIDENT—The Board can only recommend it.

Mr. POLLOCK asked if the fumes of the disinfecting gas were rapidly got rid of or hung about the ship for long afterwards, delaying the receiving of cargo.

The PRESIDENT replied that he anticipated the gas, like any other gas, would rapidly diffuse itself if the ship was opened up.

The motion was put to the meeting and again decided by a casting vote, four voting for and four against it.

The PRESIDENT gave his casting vote in favour of the motion, which was carried.

With reference to the question of sites for urinals, the PRESIDENT moved that a sub-committee, consisting of the Vice-President, the Acting Medical Officer of Health, and Mr. Rumjahn, be formed to consider the matter and report to the Board at the earliest opportunity.

Col. WEBB seconded, and the motion was carried.

FLUSHING OF DRAINS.

With reference to the proposed flushing of certain drains at East Point with sea-water, a letter was submitted from the D.P.W. stating that the sewers were reported to be in good order and must have been thoroughly flushed by the recent heavy rainstorms. As the rains had begun he saw no occasion for going to the expense of flushing by other means.

The PRESIDENT said that there was apparently no need now for this flushing, as a continuous supply of water is now being provided.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AT SHANGHAI.

Correspondence was laid on the table relative to the prevalence of infectious disease at Shanghai.

The PRESIDENT said that as it appeared that cholera, small-pox and diphtheria were non-existent in Shanghai he would move that the Board recommend the Governor in Council to withdraw the proclamation of 22nd March declaring Shanghai an infected port.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PLAGUE AT AMOY.

There was laid on the table a letter from the British Consul at Amoy reporting that the plague epidemic there continued unabated, but with no great severity as compared with former years whether as to type of disease or mortality. The number of deaths in the city was roughly estimated at from 30 to 50 per day.

The PRESIDENT moved that the Board recommend the Governor in Council to declare Amoy an infected port.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

The PRESIDENT pursuant to notice moved—That the Board, in accordance with Section 19 of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance, 1903, authorise Mr. Hanmer, who has been appointed to act as Assistant Secretary, to perform all or any of the duties of the Secretary.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PLAGUE AND DUMPING.

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., pursuant to notice moved—That having regard to the letter, signed "Anti-dumping," which appeared in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of the 22nd March, 1903, the Acting Medical Officer of Health be requested to report in writing to the Board as soon as possible:—

1. What percentage of bodies (giving figures) in proportion to the number of plague cases (giving figures) were dumped in the streets during the following periods, respectively:—(*a*) The year 1898; (*b*) the year 1899; (*c*) the year 1900; (*d*) the year 1901; (*e*) the year 1902; (*f*) the year 1903, from the 1st January until the date of report?
2. What measures are now being taken with a view to minimise such dumping, and has the Acting Medical Officer of Health any suggestions to make as to the adoption of any further measures for diminishing such dumping?
3. How many convictions in respect of the dumping of dead bodies in the streets have taken place before a Police Magistrate:—(*a*) During the year 1900; (*b*) during the year 1901; (*c*) during the year 1902; (*d*) from the 1st of January, 1903, to the date of report. What penalties were awarded in respect of each of such convictions, and state the cases, if any, in which the party elected to pay the fine instead of undergoing imprisonment?
4. What measures are now adopted for (*a*) Temporarily housing people whose rooms are being disinfected in consequence of plague having occurred; and (*b*) protecting the furniture and property of such people from damage? Has the Acting Medical Officer of Health any suggestions to make for the improvement of such measures?
5. Whether it is the fact that in former years only the flat where a case of plague occurred was disinfected and not the whole house, and, if so, when was the former practice discontinued and for what reasons?
6. Whether it is necessary that winter clothes, locked up in a box in a flat in which plague has occurred should be disinfected and for how long has such practice been in force?

Whether the following statements, which are contained in the above-mentioned letter of "Anti-dumping" are accurate or not, and, if inaccurate, in what respects they are so:—

(*a*) "As soon as a death is reported a policeman is despatched to the house where it has occurred, and the inmates are not allowed to leave till the body has been examined by a doctor and the cause of death certified, which, as a rule, takes over twenty-four hours."

(*b*) "If the death is pronounced to be from plague the Sanitary Board officials take charge of the premises and the occupants of the whole house are turned out into the street with their furniture and all their clothing, winter and summer, which is emptied from the boxes and disinfected."

(*c*) "After fumigation, the whole house is closed and nailed and the occupants are left to shift for themselves with their furniture as best as they can."

(*d*) "During what is called the disinfecting operation, leather boxes, chests-of-drawers, mattresses, and other furniture are damaged to such an extent that they are unfit for further use."

(*e*) "A case of plague occurred early this month at No. 31, Elgin Street, first floor. As usual the whole house was closed and the winter clothing, which was in boxes, taken and disinfected, and the inmates were turned out. Some of them, who could not find any place to go to live, remained in the street with their furniture for nearly a week, in all kinds of weather, with the result that one of them, an old man, got ill through exposure, and was taken to hospital where he died."

(*f*) "There are several instances of people turned out from plague-infected houses in Hollywood Road and Cochrane Street being in the public street for several days."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted:—"I strongly support this motion. Some time ago during a conversation I had with the A.M.O.H. I pointed out to him that it would be—in fact it is—a great hardship on the inmates of the various floors of an infected house to be shut up altogether for a whole day or at least as long as it does not suit the convenience of the cleansing gang to go and disinfect the premises. In some cases of which I had personal knowledge the Board's officers and men turned up late in the afternoon at an hour when the inmates were about to prepare their meal, and in other cases they came the following morning. During all that time the inmates were forbidden to hold any communication with outside. If at the time they had no provisions in stock they would have to be starved until they were turned out. The idea in thus imprisoning them is to restrict the spread of infection. But is it to restrict or help the spread of infection by turning them with all their belongings to live in the street? I saw with my own eyes in Queen's Road West those who were turned out on wet and fine days alike, stack up their furniture immediately outside their infected house, and sleep there for days and nights, waiting for the premises to be limewashed. As a preventative measure the whole thing is a farce. It does no good but it is good enough to annoy and frighten people into devising all sorts of means to evade the law."

Mr. POLLOCK said that as he understood that this information was available he would only say very few words in support of his motion. He thought it had been the policy of the Board to enforce amongst the Chinese community such laws with regard to sanitation as were deemed necessary in order to prevent the spread of plague and other infectious diseases. No doubt in some respects some of those measure might have seemed rather hard to the Chinese, but no doubt from the point of view of health the enforcement of those measures had been strictly necessary. But while it became imperatively necessary for the Board to impose upon the whole population, Europeans and Chinese alike, such measures as they considered necessary for the general safety of the community, he considered that it was equally their duty to see that in the enforcement of these measures no unnecessary hardship was

caused to any individual. It was with a view to the prevention of the continuance of such hardships that he had asked for the information referred to in his notice of motion. He hoped it would be found practicable, when the information he had asked for had been supplied, to take such measures as might ensure as far as possible the minimum of hardship to the Chinese community. Mr. Lau Chu Pak in his minute annexed to the motion confirmed in some respects the complaints made by "Anti-dumping" in his letter in the *Hongkong Daily Press*; he showed that people were turned out practically in the streets with their furniture, and he thought that with their knowledge of the torrential rains which sometimes occurred in this Colony at this season of the year it was a very great hardship and some provision should be made in order to prevent a repetition. Such rains were not only prejudicial to the people who were turned out but destructive to the belongings which were turned out into the streets.

The ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH replied as follows:—

1. I am not in a position to say how many bodies have been dumped in the streets during this or any previous year. I can only give figures for bodies found in streets or elsewhere other than in houses. These figures may include cases which have died in the street or on the hillsides.

The figures are as follows:—

In 1898,	1315 cases, found	364	27.6	per cent.
„ 1899,	1462 „	„ 382	26.1	„
„ 1900,	1087 „	„ 303	27.8	„
„ 1901,	1650 „	„ 228	13.8	„
„ 1902,	572 „	„ 203	35.5	„
„ 1903,	985 „	„ 370	37.5	„

The measures taken with a view to lessen dumping fall under two heads, *viz*, those taken by the police which are directed towards the detection and punishment of offenders in this respect and those taken by the Sanitary Board. With regard to the former I beg to refer you to the reply to Question 3. With regard to the latter I may recall the fact to your notice that the Board are now offering compensation for articles destroyed during disinfection, and further I have for a considerable time endeavoured to carry out the disinfection bye-laws with as little damage to property as possible. For example it is not now the custom to remove any partitions or cubicles whether illegal or not during the disinfecting operations as long as the structure is not rotten and can be got at at both sides for cleansing and limewashing. The provision of the observation blocks is also a measure undertaken with a view to lessen the hardship which the vacation of houses entails. The object of the above measure seems however to be defeated by the fact that any disinfecting operations whatever, involving as they must do a great amount of personal discomfort and domestic derangement, are so distasteful to the people and detrimental to business that they completely overshadow all efforts made to reconcile the people to the necessity of such measures. With reference to the question as to whether I have any further suggestions to make in this matter I may direct your attention to a minute of mine before the Board to-day referring to this very subject. Further than this I am not at present able to go. Convinced as I am, that disinfection and dumping stand in the mutual relation of cause and effect and not feeling justified at the present time in recommending any serious alterations in the methods at present adopted to deal with plague, I am of the opinion that unless some method of bringing the offence home to the offenders by severe punishment be devised we must always expect to have some bodies dumped in the streets. The question of punitive measures is, however, one which can be better dealt with by one who has knowledge, which I do not possess to a sufficient degree, of the life, customs and prejudices of the Chinese people.

4 (*a*) Those turned out of infected houses are offered shelter in the Board's observation blocks east and west. A further block has just been taken for this purpose in Bridges Street in the Central District. This block would have been undoubtedly obtained earlier if it had not been for the fact that the houses though looked for could not be found.

(*b*). All care is taken to avoid damage to furniture and property during disinfection but if the people will not, as is generally the case, go to the observation blocks, the Board has no means of housing furniture turned out from any premises. In this connection I may mention that it is quite a common occurrence to find that people have begun to move their furniture before the Board's officers arrive at the premises. With a view to providing protection of furniture it would no doubt be possible though expensive to rent a much larger number of houses than the Board does at present for sheltering people and their property. If space can be found matsheds might be built for this purpose but the accommodation would have to be provided for twice as many families each day, as there are cases of plague, as the cleansing and limewashing operations take as a rule over 24 hours.

5. I am informed, and I believe rightly, but I do not know for a fact, that in 1900 the flat where a plague case occurred only was disinfected; also that this was done because the disinfecting apparatus in Taipingshan was out of order and could not therefore deal with a larger amount of clothing. Presumably this practice was discontinued on the disinfection plant being put in order. As I was not in the Colony at the time I can give no date. The disinfection now carried out, as far as clothing is concerned, is on the same lines as it has always been during my stay in the Colony.

6. It is impossible in any particular case to say whether the winter clothing locked in a box may or may not be infected. Rats suffer from plague all the year round, and human plague may begin before winter clothing is left off. Winter clothing is not sharply demarcated from other clothing. Each case is treated on its merits and always has been as far as I know.

"Anti-dumping's" letter—

(1) A policeman is telephoned for by a M.O.H. or sanitary inspector when he hears of an uncertified death. The inspector or M. O. H. views the body, and if he decides that the body should be removed to the mortuary for examination the policeman remains on guard over the house till the cause of death is made known. This may be over 24 hours but the length of time varies according to which time the body may be removed. If the body be removed about 9 a.m. it is likely that the policeman will remain on duty till about 10 a.m. next day. If the body be removed at 10 p.m. the time would be halved.

(2) This is correct in the main. The shelter of the observation blocks is however offered. With regard to clothing my answer to question 6 applies here.

(3) Fumigation is not as a rule done. Only one Chinese shop in Victoria has been fumigated this year. After the cleansing is over and while the house is awaiting the limewashers the doors are shut and nailed up as a protection against thieves. Sometimes the limewashing is finished the same day as the cleansing, and if so the tenants can return. If this cannot be done the people have still the option of going to one of the observation blocks. All plague inspectors offer to allow the tenants to go back to their house after the cleansing operations are over and while awaiting the limewashing. In a very large number of cases the houses are found deserted by every one and the furniture removed.

(4) It is possible that damange may be done sometimes to articles such as are here mentioned. I can call to mind however only one case where a complaint has been made. The Board by their Committee offer reasonable compensation.

(5) This is quite correct. The house was deserted by the inmates before the inspector arrived. The old man spoken of died of plague on the 6th of May. On the arrival of the inspector at this house he found all the furniture and clothing removed into the streets by the tenants. He disinfected the furniture in the street and all clothing which he could get hold of. He was of the opinion, however, that much of the clothing was already beyond his reach. He stopped a marine-store hawker in the act of carrying away rags, etc., from the deserted ground floor of this building. The great delay which occurred in the completion of the sanitary measures undertaken in connection with this house was due to the unsatisfactory way in which the former limewashing contractor On Kee did his work. The cleansing operations were completed on the 30th of April. The limewashing was done on the 6th of May. The work was however badly done and was not passed by the inspector. On Kee was ordered to re-limewash the house and the work was not properly finished till the 13th of May.

(6) This is very indefinite but it is no doubt true that, owing to the very unsatisfactory way in which the former limewashing contractor attempted to carry out his duties people were kept out of their houses for an unreasonable time. This has been remedied. The Board cancelled his contract on the 23rd of May. A blacksmith at 42, Hollywood Road was kept out of his business for five days while awaiting the limewashing of his shop by the contractor On Kee. He and his fokis were however allowed to sleep every night on the ground floor while so waiting. In the case of No. 44, Cochrane Street, the tenants found a place to go to at once and removed there with their furniture. At 50, Cochrane Street the house except the top floor was found deserted. At No. 27, Hollywood Road the people were kept out for four days because the landlord asked to be allowed to do the limewashing himself and would not do it satisfactorily. On the third day the Board's contractor was ordered to do the work. This house was all deserted except the ground floor.

The PRESIDENT said he was personally very glad that Mr. Pollock had brought forward this motion, because it gave the officers of the Board an opportunity to reply to the anonymous letters which had recently appeared in the Press. They would agree with him that it was the object of one and all of them to carry out these measures with as little discomfort as possible to the inhabitants, and he thought the Acting Medical Officer of Health would be able to conclusively show to the members that many of those statements in the letters referred to were, to say the least of it, exaggerated in many cases and in others grossly untrue.

Mr. POLLOCK thought it would be satisfactory if a sub-committee could be appointed to go into this matter. He moved that a sub-committee be appointed and that Dr. Pearse's report be printed and circulated. It was a very important question indeed, and it seemed to him that from what had been read by Dr. Pearse that possibly—he might say probably—a great many of those people who were turned out and living in the streets in the rain and bad weather were not aware of the fact that they had the privilege if they chose of going into these observation blocks.

The PRESIDENT said they were always informed of that fact by the sanitary inspectors.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN—I do not think so.

The PRESIDENT asked the Acting M.O.H. whether the Inspectors did not invariably make this offer to the people?

ACTING M.O.H.—Yes that is so.

Mr. POLLOCK added that it was hard to suppose that people would voluntarily live in the streets during heavy rains. He moved that a sub-committee be appointed.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded. It was high time, he said, that the Board should enquire into all the complaints which were dealt with in the report. The suffering inflicted upon the Chinese must be very severe or they would not go to such an extreme as that a wife should allow the body of her husband to be thrown away or a mother the body of her child.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT proposed that Messrs. Pollock, Lau Chu Pak, Dr. Pearse and himself be appointed as the sub-committee.

Captain LYONS seconded.

Mr. POLLOCK proposed that Mr. Fung Wa Chun be added to the committee.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

The PRESIDENT accepted the amendment, and his motion was agreed to.

PROPOSED BRANCH HOSPITALS.

The VICE-PRESIDENT pursuant to notice moved:—That with a view to encouraging the inhabitants to report cases of plague and submit them for treatment, the Board recommend that arrangements be made for opening temporary hospitals in various districts of the City and Kowloon, suitable premises being hired or temporary structures erected, where practicable, for the purpose. The hospitals to

be under proper supervision and the arrangements to be completed in readiness for next spring, when cases of plague may be expected to recur.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak minuted—"A very good suggestion. It will probably save more lives. The present system of carting patients from one end of the town to the other intensifies their suffering."

The VICE-PRESIDENT said it was within the knowledge of members of the Board that on several occasions permission had been granted for the establishment of what might be termed small branch hospitals in connection with various industrial concerns—the Godown Co. at Kowloon, Messrs. Butterfield & Swire at Quarry Bay, and the Cotton Mills—where the employees could be treated without being dealt with in the ordinary way. These firms appeared to be satisfied that the adoption of that measure by them facilitated matters in helping people to report themselves when they were feeling out of sorts and in carrying on their business, and if that was so in these individual cases he thought it could fairly be assumed that the same would happen if it was adopted as a general method in connection with the City and Kowloon generally.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded.

Mr. POLLOCK said he presumed that if the recommendation was adopted by the Government an addition to the medical staff would be necessary.

The PRESIDENT—That is so; that would be the natural result.

The motion was agreed to.

MEASUREMENT OF HOUSES.

Mr. A. RUMJAHN pursuant to notice asked—Since the enforcement of Sections 46 and 154 of Ordinance No. 1 of 1903 in No. 5 Health District, how many houses have already been measured up, and what steps if any are being taken to enforce the provisions of these Sections and how many persons have been displaced thereby?

Dr. PEARSE replied that a surveyor had been at work in No. 5 Health District since 27th May. In the block in which the survey began were 42 houses and a total number of 147 floors. Of these floors, 36 were unoccupied, and 15 were locked up at the time of the visit and therefore not measured. Of illegal cubicles there were 242, and of kitchens not complying with the provisions of the new Ordinance, 120. Eleven cases of plague had occurred in the block. The floors measured totalled 132, the number of persons who could occupy these under the old Ordinance was 2,230, and the number who could occupy them under the new Ordinance 1,401. Not allowing for any alternations under the new Ordinance, the total displacement in these floors was therefore 833.

DISINFECTION.

The Acting M.O.H. recommended that in disinfection operations, with a view to lessening the disturbance of inmates of houses, the clothing and personal effects of all living on the same floor as the affected person should be disinfected and also all clothing of any other persons who might reasonably be supposed to have had intimate personal communication with the sick person; the clothing and effects of others in the same house except as above stated need not be disinfected; the whole house, however, should be cleansed with disinfectants and limewashed. He considered this to be necessary in view of the prevailing opinion that a house may become infected through plague-stricken vermin.

Mr. Pollock minuted:—"This question will have to be considered in connection with the Bye-laws."

The P. C. M. O.:—"The cleansing and disinfection is left to the discretion of the M. O. H., but naturally he does not wish to modify them without the consent of the Board."

The PRESIDENT said the suggestion was practically the outcome of several meetings that the Medical Officer of Health and he had had with the plague inspectors, and after discussing the matter more than once they came to the conclusion that they would be acting wisely if they confined the disinfection of clothing and effects to the same floor as that on which a plague case occurred. Knowing as they did the way in which bubonic plague was spread, it was very unlikely that, presuming a case occurred on the first floor of a house, the people on the third floor would be contaminated. The object of the recommendation was to cause the least inconvenience to the Chinese. This would not apply to a case of pneumonic plague, which is distinctly contagious. With reference to Mr. Pollock's minute, the first of the bye-laws for the prevention or mitigation of endemic, epidemic or contagious disease left cleansing and disinfecting to the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN proposed that notice of the new procedure be given to the Chinese. It might encourage them to report cases of plague.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded the proposal, which was adopted.

HILL DISTRICT SCAVENGING.

A report dealing with the scavenging of the Hill district was submitted. It showed that the rubbish removed to the depot and the dust-boats from 18th to 24th ult. was 637 piculs.

Mr. POLLOCK minuted that "the scavenging contractor should be kept to his work."

The PRESIDENT said the scavenging contractor's attention had been drawn to the matter by a letter from the Secretary, and if he failed to do his work properly he would be summoned before the Board.

PLAGUE AT TSAT-TSZ-MUI.

There was submitted a minute by the Acting M. O. H. reporting the occurrence of four cases of plague in Tsat-tsz-mui and suggesting limewashing, etc., in the village.

The suggestion was adopted, on the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. POLLOCK.

DOMESTIC CLEANLINESS.

A minute by the Acting M. O. H. was submitted recommending an amendment to the note to Bye-law 5 of the Bye-laws regulating domestic cleanliness and ventilation.

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that Dr. Pearse's recommendation be adopted.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

IMPURE WELL.

The Government Analyst (Mr. F. Browne) reported that a well at the back of 26, First Street was impure.

It was agreed to close it.

WATER SUPPLY.

The report of the Government Analyst on the water supply showed that the water in all the services was of excellent quality.

LIMEWASHING.

The limewashing return for the fortnight ended 26th May showed that 4,378 houses in the Central and 579 in the Western District had been dealt with.

RATS.

The rat returns showed that during the fortnight ended 1st inst. 6,400 rats were destroyed, of these 417 were infected.

PEAK SCAVENGING.

Regarding this matter, the PRESIDENT said the European Inspectors recently appointed for the Hill District had reported that many of the dust-bins at the Peak houses did not comply with Sec. 7 of the scavenging bye-laws ["Occupiers shall provide themselves with strong substantial movable dust-bins for the reception of the day's house refuse"] and it was proposed to keep a sanitary dust-bin at the S.B.'s Offices as a sample, this being one of those at present in use at the Government Civil Hospital.

Mr. POLLOCK—Can they be obtained here, and what would be the cost?

The PRESIDENT—I think they can be made locally: an estimate will be be obtained of the cost.

HOW TO GET RID OF RATS.

The PRESIDENT said many residents had been asking him how to get rid of rats in their houses. A simple expedient was to have a cat in the house as undoubtedly cats keep away rats. Another practical measure is to keep a few chatties in the basement with chloride of lime in them: if this were moistened chlorine gas would be given off, and our experience proves that rats dislike this smell.

Mr. POLLOCK—I saw the other day in the papers that cats were known to have taken plague.

The PRESIDENT—Yes. At the Wharf and Godown Company's place last year Mr. Osborne obtained a number of cats to keep down the rats, and the cats contracted the disease.

Mr. POLLOCK said—I understand plague-infected fowls have been found at one of the markets.

The PRESIDENT—I am referring to this later on.

PLAGUE-INFECTED FOWLS FROM THE WESTERN MARKET.

There was laid on the table a recommendation by the Acting M. O. H. for the closing of certain stalls at the Western Market.

The PRESIDENT said this had reference to the discovery of plague-infected poultry in the Western Market. On 31st May one fowl was sent from the Western Market to the public mortuary and on examination by the bacteriologist it was found to have died of plague. On 1st June a duck was sent and was found to have died of plague. On the 2nd four ducks all from the same market and one chicken were all reported to have died of plague, and on the 3rd there was a quail which was found to have died of plague. He did not wish to pose as an alarmist, but he thought it behoved the residents, Europeans and Chinese, to take every precaution with reference to cooking poultry generally. The connection between rats and human plague has not been conclusively shown. There was a connection, but it was somewhat remote. One could easily understand that if the food supply became contaminated in this way with plague bacilli there was a possible danger; and personally he thought that many of the cases that had occurred amongst the Chinese might have been caused in this way, infection having taken place through the alimentary tract from their having eaten plague-infected poultry. He believed it was the custom for many of the Chinese to eat the entrails of fowls uncooked.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK—No, no.

The PRESIDENT said he was informed that it was the custom. They took the entrails as a sort of relish with their rice. This being so it was easily understood that if that fowl was infected the disease might be spread in that way. At any rate he knew it was a fact that the Chinese did not believe in cooking fowls as well as Europeans did. They ate fowls half-cooked. He had that information from a Chinaman when he was going round the experimental block with the Governor one Sunday. They asked the Chinaman why they could not persuade the Chinese to take chicken broth: and he told them that they did not cook their chicken but preferred to eat it half-cooked. One could easily suppose that such fowls had been sold cheaply to the lower classes of Chinese, and it was very probably the means whereby the infection was caused. He had asked Dr. Pearse to inspect the Western Market and he had himself that morning visited it with the C.V.S. It appeared that there were some basement dwellings within the precincts of the markets for which licenses had been granted in years past. It was very undesirable that these dwellings should be allowed to exist. One human case of plague had occurred in one of the stalls about a fortnight ago—on the 20th or 21st of May—and as a result cleansing operations were carried out, traps were laid and 99 rats were caught of which 7 were proved to be infected with plague. It therefore had occurred to him that it would be just as well to see if any of the fowls that died in the market had died of the disease. Orders were sent to the inspector to send in such fowls to the bacteriologist; and the result was as given. He moved that the Government be asked to withdraw the permits given to these basements and that they be not allowed to be occupied as dwellings in future. The Western Market was being dealt with by the sanitary authorities.

Mr. POLLOCK seconded.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that some arrangements were being made for the accommodation of these people outside the market at present, and as a temporary market was in progress it might be possible permanently to close some of those parts which were more seriously objected to.

The motion was agreed to.

The VICE-PRESIDENT added that it should be clearly understood that these cases of infected fowls were from the Western Market and not from the Central Market, from which a great deal of the food supply was drawn.

This was all the public business.

THE NAVY LEAGUE.

LECTURE BY MR. H. F. WYATT.

Under the auspices of the Hongkong Branch of the Navy League, Mr. F. H. Wyatt of the League gave an address in the City Hall on the 2nd inst. There was a good attendance. His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., presided, and there were also on the platform, Messrs. H. E. Pollock, K.C., D. R. Law, M. W. Slade, R. C. Wilcox, B. Layton, and E. W. Mitchell, the Committee of the local Branch of the Navy League.

HIS EXCELLENCY, introducing the lecturer, said Mr. Wyatt had been delegated by the Navy League at home to bring before the people of the British Empire in the Colonies, and to stimulate their interest in the condition of our Navy. We in Hongkong saw before us the great ships of every nation of the world that day by day entered our port, and no one needed to be reminded of the fact that our existence depended upon our Navy. This was no party question. The labours of the Navy League in keeping before the people of the British Empire the minimum requirements to satisfy the conditions of safety were labours that must be appreciated by every Government. Supremacy at sea was absolutely necessary for us, and, whatever the cost, we must secure at once that the Navy should be sufficient, efficient, and ready. (Applause.) His Excellency then formally introduced Mr. Wyatt to the meeting.

Mr. WYATT, who was cordially received, first commented on the great zeal, kindness and sympathy which must have inspired so many members of the League to induce them to attend that afternoon. It was known in England that the Hongkong Branch was a powerful one and was permeated by no mean spirit but by a spirit of strength and keenness, and that meeting, he thought, was a proof of it. The lecturer proceeded to review rapidly the history of the British Navy and the genesis of the Navy League. First trade and then the flag—such was the story, he said, of the development of our dominions throughout the world. The time was when all the shores of the uncivilised world were open to us, when we took what we liked. If the British Empire was not twice as large as it is now, that was simply because of our own failure to take what was offered to us. (Applause.) However satisfactory a state of affair that might be to look back upon—he did not know that it was satisfactory—it was a condition of things which no longer obtained. The conditions of the world had changed. International relations had changed. We were now throughout the world challenged by mighty rivals, people who competed with us at once in the paths of war and of diplomacy, who wrestled with us at every turn, tried to acquire dominion in every direction and looked upon us with jealous eyes. He was not speaking as one who wanted to incite animosity against other nations. He was only asking them to realise obvious facts, so clear that only the blind could fail to see them. Ever since the opening of the Suez Canal that competition had been intensified. France and Germany and Russia—France and Germany in particular—had taken advantage of it and plunged out into the Far East where before they had hardly a footing. France had now an Empire in the East and it was more than probable that it was going to be very considerably enlarged. The immense dominion of Russia hardly needed to be pointed out; of recent years Russia had spread herself throughout Asia, and they knew how her railways and her legions were crossing over the continent. Her sea power was increasing enormously. It would not be long before Russia would be the second sea power of the world. Already her navy was a very great force. Surely in the face of these challenges that had changed the conditions of the earth, and of the fact also that wherever foreign nations established their dominion they established tariffs calculated to shut out our trade—in every instance they either had done so or were going to do so—surely it behoved us to be up and doing. In England, they knew very well, they could not get any Government, whether Liberal or Conservative, to take up any matter involving great expenditure unless the Government felt the full force of public opinion behind them. That was where the Navy League came in. Its object was to teach people truths about sea-power as the source of England's greatness which they in many cases did not know before. The trade of British people the world over depended for its continuance upon the supremacy of their Navy, and it behoved them to keep that fact ever before their eyes. As the instrument, the mouthpiece, of the people, the League might take some little credit to itself for the measure of success that had been achieved in the increasing of the last Navy stimates. The Navy had been neglected horribly by successive Governments, but a little improvement was now apparent, and for that, as had already been remarked, the Navy League might take some credit. In self-governing Colonies as well as in British communities the League had a great mission to fulfil, and to do it adequately required the efforts not of one but of a hundred men to go forth and preach the gospel that England must not take a back place amongst the nations of the world—that she must hold the premier position, and that there were men abroad as at home ready to devote their best efforts to secure her that position (Applause.) In the East the Navy League had a great work to perform. The question had been asked—'What good can we do out here?' Incalculable good could be done, for, as in the case of the Hongkong branch, the first formed outside of Great Britain, invaluable suggestions could be given to the League at home which would serve to extend its sphere of usefulness. A crisis in the world's history was approaching, and although the great final struggle might be delayed a little longer, it was bound to come. We did not mean to yield our position without a fight, but it would be better far to yield at once than to engage in that struggle facing the probability of defeat. When we fought, we must fight to win, and in order to win we must have every detail of the war thought out beforehand and be ready for every emergency. Concluding, Mr. Wyatt expressed on behalf of his colleagues at home and of himself their most earnest and sincere thanks for the strong and vigorous way in which the work of the Navy League had been carried out here. Such a display of zeal heartened the League in its mission, and if the League succeeded in its endeavour to rouse and maintain the necessary spirit of interest and enthusiasm in the British people at home and abroad, a great achievement would be performed, and as one family throughout the world we should be able to face the future with confidence. (Prolonged applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY followed with a few brief remarks. After paying a tribute to the excellence of the address just concluded, he said the Hongkong Branch of the League comprised about a quarter of the male British population, and that there was room for expansion. Referring to the necessity for a strong Navy, he said there were two ways of regarding the matter. One was the necessity for a strong Navy having regard to future war, and the other was the necessity for a strong Navy having regard to the fact that in trade matters we were the treasure-house of the world, and we wanted that strong Navy to secure lasting peace. (Applause.) It was in that aspect, His Excellency said, that he preferred to look at it. War was a dreadful thing, and in spending our money to secure the best and the strongest Navy in the world he hoped we were also expending it to secure the blessings of peace. (Applause.) Commenting on a recommendation he made some years ago as to the raising of a reserve amongst the 60,000 fishermen of Newfoundland, who were amongst the finest men the world could produce, His Excelleney said that, though the recommendation was not adopted at the time, he had been pleased to note that amongst the Newfoundland items of news in a back copy of the *Times* that he picked up the other day was the information that 600 Newfoundland fishermen had returned from a West Indian cruise. (Applause.) When the day of trial came, concluded the speaker, we should look forward over the sea and over the land for that help which, he was quite certain, if the people were only properly trained, we should never look for in vain in any part of the Empire. (Applause.) His Excellency then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Wyatt.

Mr. WYATT in acknowledging the vote of thanks said it was very true that the upkeep of our naval strength was the chief guarantee of peace; therefore the Navy League might be looked upon as the greatest peace society on earth. To leave the British Empire undefended or too weakly defended would be not only a piece of insanity but a crime against civilisation and the peace of the world. With reference to the introduction of naval reserves he recalled the fact that he was one of a deputation who waited upon Sir Wilfrid Laurier when the Colonial Premiers were home for the Jubilee, to bring that very point before him. Canada had now begun to recognise the duty that lay upon her to do something to assist in the naval defence of the Empire. (Applause.)

Mr. POLLOCK, K.C., in proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency, said he was specially glad to see him in the chair, as an erroneous idea seemed to be abroad that in some way or another the Navy League were against the Government and that it was not becoming in a high official to be a member of the Navy League. The presence of His Excellency that afternoon might tend, he thought, very effectually to dispose of that erroneous impression. (Applause.) So far from the Navy League being against the Government, the object of the League had been, ever since its inception, to support the Government to the best of its power. (Hear, hear.) The object of the League had been so to stir up public opinion in Great Britain to the importance of a paramount Navy that the electorate of Great Britain might have it brought home to them that a predominantly strong Navy was absolutely necessary, not for the purpose of aggression, but simply and solely for the security of the Empire and for the maintenance of that grand heritage which had been handed down to us. (Applause.)

The meeting then dispersed.

The local Branch of the Navy League continues through its energetic Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, and his Committee to keep the propaganda of the League before the public. We have now received the report for the year 1902, submitted to the members at the annual meeting of members at the Royal United Service Institution on 13th ult.

Dealing with the Hongkong Branch the report says:—"Hongkong has not lost any of the interest it has always shown in the work of the League. Its President is now Mr. H. E. Pollock, to whose efforts in past years the original success of the Branch was largely due. Captain Anderson, the present Honorary Secretary, is carrying the work of the League into the schools of Hongkong for both British and native born subjects, and he has also given assistance of the utmost value in connection with the visit of Mr. Wyatt to the Commonwealth and New Zealand, having been instrumental in securing that gentleman's passage by sea from Japan to Australia. The correct and useful information on current affairs in the Far East, forwarded by this Branch to the Head Office, is both valuable and interesting."

CEREMONY ON THE PARADE GROUND.

An interesting ceremony took place on the Parade Ground, opposite the Cricket Ground, on the 31st ult., when the troops attending the Church of England service at 8.30 a.m. formed up to witness the presentation by H.E. Major-General Gascoigne of the following order and medals won during the late war in South Africa:—

Insignia of the Distinguished Service Order—Captain T. H. M. Green, 1st Sherwood Foresters.

Medal for Distinguished Conduct in the Field—Sergeant-Major W. J. Roberts, Colour-Sergeant C. D. Randall, Colour-Sergeant W. Seaton, Armourer-Sergeant G. W. Avenell, and Pryate H. Marriot (all 1st Sherwood Foresters).

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medals were also presented to Gunners Donovan and Newberry, Royal Garrison Artillery.

CHINESE REFORM LEADER KANG YU WEI.

A PLAN TO DECOY HIM.

Considerable interest has been aroused throughout China and India by the fact that Kang Yu Wei, the noted Reform leader, had been summoned to Peking by Imperial order. Kang Yu Wei has been for several years a refugee from his own country. He had to flee for his life from China. Even in Hongkong he was not free from the fear of assassination, and he was compelled to seek protection still under the British flag, in a country more remote from his native land. His haven of refuge was Darjiling in India. There he has been living in exile. Suddenly word came to him that the Court in Peking desired his presence. All the Reform party in China was in a flutter when the Imperial summons became known, for it appeared that a new order of things was about to come into force: that the Reformers were to be taken into the councils of the Chinese Government through the agency of their leaders, and that the Peking authorities were about to unbend in their attitude of uncompromising hostility to anything that savoured of reform. It was little wonder therefore that the progressives should be alive with interest in watching the movements of one in whom were embodied all the principles which they hold dear, suddenly called into what appeared to be imperial favour There were those who prophesied that Kang would be putting his head into the lion's mouth if he trusted himself to the mercy of the Chinese Court, who said that if he entered the Imperial city he would never leave it alive. But Kang, it seems, took a more optimistic view of the situation. He received the summons in good faith and set forth for Peking with all trust in the summoners.

The telegram by which he was recalled from his exile was signed, we are led to understand, by His Majesty Kwang Hsu. It was not surprising therefore the Kang Yu Wei took it at its face value. He left Darjiling to answer the royal command. He travelled up as far as Hongkong on the French mail which arrived on Sunday. He was met by the Reform League representatives here and the result was that he left for the South the same day. The League had no faith in the summons received by Kang Yu Wei. Indeed it is alleged that the telegraphic message from Peking was either forged or else was signed by the plastic Emperor under compulsion. But be that as it may, the League advised Kang Yu Wei not only not to carry out his intention of visiting Peking but to return in all haste to the place from whence he came. Kang accordingly sailed for Singapore by the first steamer. That anyone under the protection of the British flag in a British colony should have to flee in such a manner is a sufficient indication of the estimate in which the power of Great Britain is held in the matter of predicating safety from harm to an outlander who may happen to be wanted by his own government.

In certain circles it is whispered that the sentence of death passed upon the Chinese who was found guilty at the last Sessions of being a party to the murder of the Reformer schoolmaster in Gage Street is likely to be commuted to one of penal servitude for life. It may be an unfounded rumour, but straws show which way the wind blows, and such a perversion of justice would certainly go a long way towards accentuating the feeling of uneasiness among those Reformers who while striving for what they consider to be the advancement of their country are yet acting within the letter of the law and as such claim under the British flag a protection which does not seem to them to be very substantial after all.

A Chinese, employed as cook on board the Hamburg-America Line steamer *Aragonia* (which arrived at Yokohama from Hongkong on the 26th ult.) died at the General Hospital there from plague. It transpired that the man was admitted to the Hospital without an examination of the case being first made. The Hospital was consequently isolated by the authorities.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 29th May.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S. BERKELEY (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

A PARTNERSHIP CASE.

Judgment was delivered in the case in which Ho Fung Hang, as administrator of the estate of Ho I Shek, deceased, sued Chan Kit San and Sz Kuk San, as partners in Yan Wo and Yi Li opium firms, to account to the plaintiff in respect of certain shares in these firms alleged to have been held by Ho I Shek. Messrs. H. E. Pollock, K.C., and T. Morgan Phillips, barristers-at-law (instructed by Mr. E. A. Bonner of Messrs. Dennys & Bowley, solicitors), were for the plaintiff; and Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. E. C. Pontifex of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors), for the defendants.

The issues of law argued were as follow:—(1) It being admitted that the defendants were not partners with Ho I Shek in his lifetime in the Yan Wo firm although they are now partners in the said firm, and assuming that Ho I Shek was at the time of his death entitled to a share in the said firm, and assuming that no settlement of accounts respecting that share has ever taken place between Ho Shek's representatives and the present or past partners in the firm, are the defendants liable as such present partners to account to the plaintiff in respect of the said share? (2) It being admitted that the defendants were not partners with Ho I Shek in his lifetime in the Yi Li firm and assuming that Ho I Shek was at the time of his death entitled to a share in that firm, and assuming that no settlement of accounts respecting the said share has ever taken place between Ho I Shek's representatives and the present or past partners in the firm, are the defendants liable as such present partners to account to the plaintiff in respect of the said share? The Chief Justice had further ordered that the issues of fact be tried after the settlement of the issues of law.

His Lordship in delivering judgment said—I think that on the admissions and assumptions of fact on which the issues of law have been raised on the pleadings in this case, the finding on the issues must be that the defendants are not liable as present partners in the firm styled the Yan Wo, to account to the plaintiff in respect of any share which was at the time of his death owned by Ho I Shek in a business at one time carried on under the same name and style as the present Yan Wo firm. By the death of Ho I Shek, the partnership then known as the Yan Wo, of which he was then a member, was dissolved, and assuming that at that time it would on an account taken have appeared that moneys were due to him by the late firm, in respect of his interest therein, the moneys so due would have constituted a simple debt recoverable in an action of debt from his surviving partner or partners. There was nothing of the character of a trust attaching to such moneys, for Ho I Shek's surviving partners were not trustees with respect to the share which he owned in the Yan Wo at the time of his death. The relation that then existed between them and Ho I Shek's representatives was simply that of debtor and creditor. It is admitted that Ho I Shek died on or about the 19th of June, 1889, and it is conceded that the defendants did not join the firm now known as the Yan Wo until 1889, *i.e.*, nine years after the death of Ho I Shek. It is clear therefore that the defendants never were partners with Ho I Shek, and that if any moneys of his were at the time they joined the Yan Wo retained by Ho I Shek's surviving former partners such moneys did not possess the character of trust moneys. The debt due, if anything, was due to Ho I Shek by his surviving partners, was due as a simple debt; and, if due, was so recoverable. There are no facts appearing on this issue which would extend the liability to pay the debt, if any, due to Ho I Shek's estate, to any other person than the partners surviving at the death of Ho I Shek or their representatives. The case of Wedderburn *v.* Wedderburn, 8 L.J.C., relied on by the plaintiffs, appears to me on consideration to have no application to this case; for there the business of the deceased had been carried on by one who was the executor, and who after the death of his testator took in partners and continued the old business with capital which, or a part of which, was money belonging to the estate of the deceased. The executor at the time he so carried on the old business was a trustee and the moneys due to the estate of deceased which were used as capital, or part of capital, of the new business were trust moneys; and moreover were such to the knowledge of the incoming new partners. Under such circumstances the incoming new partners were held liable to account to the representatives of the testator though they had not become partners in the new business until long after the death of the testator. Wedderburn *v.* Wedderburn is therefore in my opinion distinguishable from this case and does not apply. Judgment therefore must be for the defendants on the first issue; and as it was agreed by consent of counsel that the finding on the second issue should be determined by that on the first, judgment will be for the defendants generally on the issues of law raised on the pleadings. Defendants will have their costs in this matter.

The Court rose.

Saturday, 30th May.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

W. BREWER & CO. *v.* PORTLAND AND ASIATIC S.S. CO.—JUDGMENT.

His Lordship delivered judgment in the action in which W. Brewer and Co. claimed $300 damages from the Portland and Asiatic Steamship Co. for damages suffered in consequence of the non-fulfilment by the defendants of a certain undertaking in writing, dated May 7th, 1902, in consideration of which plaintiffs allowed the steamship *Indravelli* to leave Hongkong with certain goods laden on board belonging to and consigned to T. W. Hindmarsh, who was then and still is indebted to the plaintiffs for goods sold and delivered.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C. (instructed by Messrs Johnson, Stokes and Master), appeared for plaintiffs, whilst Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Messrs Wilkinson and Grist), represented the defendants.

His Lordship said—This is an action on an undertaking given under the following circumstances. The plaintiffs commenced an action against one W. T. Hindmarsh and subsequently obtained judgment on May 23, 1902, with costs and leave to issue execution against the goods attached under a writ of foreign attachment dated May 1, 1902, which directed the bailiff to attach all the property movable and immovable of the said T. W. Hindmarsh, which should be found within the Colony. This writ was duly served on Mr. Wilgress on behalf of the defendant company (as garnishees) on the same day. The plaintiffs proposed under their writ of foreign attachment to seize some 26 cases of goods then already shipped by Hindmarsh on a steamer belonging to defendants, but as the steamer was leaving in a short time it was arranged that the goods should not be discharged on an undertaking being given by the agent of the defendant company. An undertaking was given, and on that undertaking the present action is brought. The goods were carried to their destination and the trouble has arisen because, after their arrival, the American Courts decided that the larger portion of them belonged to some third party, and that, therefore, they could not be returned to Hongkong. Hence the action.

His Lordship went on to read the undertakings which was to the effect that the defendants in consideration of Messrs. Fung Wa Chun, Tak Cheong, W. Brewer & Co., Wong Hing and the Mutual Stores, who were stated to be creditors of T. W. Hindmarsh and to be taking proceedings to recover the amounts due, and who intended to seize by the order of the Supreme Court of Hongkong goods belonging to T. W. Hindmarsh already laden on board the s.s *Indravelli* (leaving on the day on which the undertaking was given), not insisting on their discharging such goods from the ship before she left Hongkong,

the defendant undertook to hold such goods subject to the order of the Supreme Court of Hongkong to satisfy any judgment and costs awarded against T. W. Hindmarsh. Defendants stipulated, however, that claimants' lawyers (Messrs. Johnson, Stokes & Master) must produce the necessary order of the Court to protect defendants in their holding on the other side.

Continuing, His Lordship said—As to the undertaking generally I am distinctly of opinion, and hold as a matter of fact, that on May 7, 1902 (the date of the signature of Mr. Cameron as general agent of the defendant company) all the parties were of opinion that the 26 cases in question were the property of T. W. Hindmarsh, and that Mr. Cameron intended to bind himself as to those 26 cases. That being so it remains to be seen how the undertaking expresses such opinion. The first objection taken on behalf of the defendants is that the undertaking refers only to goods belonging to T. W. Hindmarsh, and that therefore, in consequence of the American decision before referred to, Mr Cameron is only liable for such goods as are actually proved to belong to Hindmarsh. As to the American decision, in the view I take of the case, I do not think that I need take it into consideration. The words in the undertaking follow the words in the writ of foreign attachment and correctly describe the 26 cases. Hindmarsh was the shipper and the only man who could sue on the bill of lading, and in law at that time he was the only owner, and the only man who could be so described. So that instead of, as counsel for the defendants contended, the words imposing a condition that Mr. Cameron is only liable for goods that may possibly hereafter be proved to belong to Hindmarsh, I think that they are an additional earmark to the 26 cases as being included in the undertaking. The second objection taken to the document is based on the words "subject to the order of the Supreme Court of Hongkong to satisfy any judgment, etc." On those words it was argued that the Court having never made any further order in accordance with the provisions of Section 470 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undertaking is bad. However, when the Court gave judgment in the original action, it also gave leave to issue execution against these goods, but as by that time the goods had left it does not seem to me that there was any further action necessary on the part of the Court with reference to goods that were out of its jurisdiction. The last objection to the undertaking refers to the last two lines. They are as follows:—"You must, however, produce the necessary order of the Court to protect us in our holding on the other side." It was incidentally mentioned in the course of argument that this proviso had not been inserted under legal advice, as the rest of the provisions of the undertaking had been. Whether, however, this proviso was added by Mr. Cameron *ex mero motu* or not, it cannot be construed by itself, but must be taken in conjunction with the rest of the document. Counsel for the defendants gave Mr. Cameron credit for considerable powers of prophecy and argued that the insertion of such a proviso showed that there was present in Mr. Cameron's mind a set of circumstances similar to those which have occurred, *viz*, that he forsaw the possibility of a third party coming forward and claiming the goods, as and from the time of shipment, and that the documents (copies of the writ of foreign attachment) which were forwarded having been held by the American Court to be insufficient to cover all the goods, the undertaking is bad. However, I think the argument is fallacious, for if my opinion is correct that on May 7, 1902, Mr Cameron was convinced that the whole of the 26 cases belonged to Hindmarsh, then it seems to me impossible that he could have contemplated any third party coming in to set up a totally different claim. What he meant, as it seems to me, and what appears to be in consonance with the rest of the undertaking, is: "Give me documents that will protect me in my holding on the other side against Hindmarsh, the shipper and owner, or possibly against some indorsee of his in the ordinary course of business," and those he got. Therefore on the document itself I am of opinion that the defence fails. Counsel for the defence also contended that no damage had been proved, but I stated at the hearing that I should allow such a technical error to be rectified. There were two other defences, one with reference to execution not having been taken out, and the other with reference to the defendants being in the position of guarantors. This latter I admit I did not quite understand. I shall therefore pass these two defences over by simply stating that I think the action is rightly brought. Under these circumstances the case for the defendants fails, and the plaintiff, before recovering judgment, will have to prove damage.

With regard to the proving of damage, Mr. Slade admitted that the judgment amount in the original case, and costs, had not been paid.

His Lordship allowed the costs of the action, the amount of judgment in the original action, and the costs of that action; costs as to summons in chambers disallowed.

The Court rose.

POST OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT.

The report on the Post Office for the year 1902 by Mr. L. A. M. Johnstone, Postmaster-General, is published in the *Government Gazette*. From it we cull the following particulars:—

International and local correspondence received and despatched during the year—Received: Letters and postcards (including 124 insured and 289,140 registered), 2,211,834; other articles, 1,218,77. Despatched: Letters and postcards (including 16) insured and 199,050 registered), 3,082,140; other articles, 968,350.

The number of bags, &c., received and despatched shows an increase on that of 1901. The total number actually dealt with was—Bags, 96,613; packets, 11,998; parcel post boxes, 7,978; and loose letter boxes, 2,516. The number of steamers conveying these mails was 7,426 inwards and 8,432 outwards. Included in the former are 43 United States mail packets, 26 English P. & O. contract packets, 26 Messageries Maritimes Co.'s packets, 26 German mail packets, and 15 Canadian.

During the year the English mails were received here on 6 occasions in 27 days, on 17 occasions in 28 days, on 22 occasions in 29 days, and on other occasions in 30 to 41 days. Twice during the year the French mails were brought on to Hongkong by vessels of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha (Japanese European line).

The total sales of postage stamps for the year amounted to $264,420.83, an advance on the sales of the previous year of no less a sum than $25,043.34. The sales of stamps at the British Post Office at Shanghai and at the British postal agencies in China amounted to $90,246.02, an increase of $6,140.74 on the previous year's receipts, the Shanghai Post Office receipts under this head being $50,019 06 in 1902 against $38.749.64 in 1901.

The parcel post business shows a decrease of 451 on that of the previous year. The total number received (including 4,090 insured) amounted to 44,150, and despatched (including 4,377 insured) to 37,239.

The statement of revenue and expenditure for the year 1902 shows that the revenue received from all sources was $387,066.19, exceeding that of 1901 by $31,153.45; and the expenditure was $316,240.12, an increase of $42,554.61 on that of the previous year. The net balance to the credit of Hongkong Post Office on the year's transactions amounted to $70,826.07.

The money order business done during the year 1902 was $721,112.08. The sales of Imperial and local postal notes in 1902 amounted to £6,026 6*s*. 7½*d*. and $10,434.07 respectively, the former showing a decrease of £892 5*s*. 5½*d*. and the latter an increase of $2,341.01 on the sales of the previous year. The penny letter postage was extended to the British postal agencies from 15th February, 1902.

A result of the recent introduction of a steam pilot-boat (built in Hongkong) into the service of the Pilots' Association of Shanghai is that their two-masted pilot schooner *Polar Star* is advertised for sale. This vessel is 66 feet long by 18 feet broad and 7 feet deep, and was originally built for sealing in the Behring Sea.

DRAGON FESTIVAL AT ABERDEEN.

The greatest enthusiasm prevailed at Aberdeen on Sunday last over the Dragon boat races. Mr. W. B. Dixon, the Chief Manager of the Dock Company, intimated that he would give a prize to the winning boat in any race they liked to set aside for the purpose. On this becoming known no less than five boats hailing from Aberdeen, Aplichau, Chung Kwan O, Luk Chow and Shaukiwan appeared on the scene and their wild practising afforded excellent sport for some days previous to the races.

On the 31st ult., mark boats were placed at the western end of One Tree Island and the eastern end of Aplichau, affording a splendid stretch of water lined on each side by junks and sampans dressed with gay flags. Mr. Dixon's arrival was a signal to the Dragon boats to get into position. The course was patronised by a goodly number of Europeans; His Excellency the Governor and Lady Blake arriving and taking a keen interest in the proceedings. The race for Mr. Dixon's prize, the Chinese insisted, should be rowed in three heats, the last race to decide the order of the boats.

At the start of the first race the excitement among the Chinese was tremendous, and the boats came on in splendid style with very little between them, the spray from the paddles flying from stem to stern and cooling the heated bodies of the owners. Half the distance was covered with all boats beating perfect time when to the consternation of all the rest the Shaukiwan boat, which had crept ahead, suddenly sheered across the stream, causing all the boats to get entangled.

The greatest good humour prevailed among the Dragonites over the mishap and a fresh start was made for the second race. Mr. Lee Ping, Government contractor, intimating that he would give a $10 note to the boat coming in first. The race was rowed splendidly and ended in a neck-and-neck race between the Luk Chow and the Aberdeen boats, the Luk Chow winning by a short distance.

The third race was an exciting struggle, and again the red and white flags contested neck-and-neck. The Aberdeen boat this time got the victory and carried off amidst great vociferation Mr. Dixon's prize. The remaining boats were awarded prizes subscribed by the Aberdeen Dock officials. After the prize-giving Mr. Dixon left, his popularity amongst the Chinese at Aberdeen being shown by the tornado of crackers hurled after his launch.

Mr. Lee Ping afterwards raced the red and white flags again and His Excellency the Governor supplemented the prizes given by a handsome donation.

The races were umpired by Police Inspector Langley and started by Mr. P. Langley, of the Dock staff.

DISTINCTIONS FOR HONGKONG OFFICIALS.

Reuter announces that His Majesty the King has been pleased to award the Imperial Service Order to the Hon. R. Murray Rumsey and Mr. Bruce Shepherd, and the medal of the Order to Mr. A. Mackie, late of the Police Force. The bestowal of these honours will be appreciated by all. Hon. Commander Murray Rumsey and Mr. Bruce Shepherd are yet in active service, though both are soon to retire; Mr. Mackie has already closed his connection with the Police. All are old Colonial servants. Mr. Mackie was for 31 years in the Colony, during which time he rose to the rank of Chief Inspector and also held the post of Acting Deputy Captain Superintendent. Mr. Bruce Shepherd has seen service now for a long period of years in the Land Office. Unassuming and kindly, he is liked and respected by all who know him, and his personality will be missed when he leaves Hongkong. Hon. Murray Rumsey has been connected with the Harbour Office for over 15 years, first as assistant Harbourmaster under Captain Thomsett and then as head of that Department. In his hands the enormous shipping business of the Harbour has been most effectively conducted, and at the Legislative Council his advice on matters nautical has been invaluable.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

KIDNAPPING.

Canton, 29th May.

It is reported that there has of late been a large increase of crime in this district, chiefly taking the form of kidnapping, which goes on for the most part in the south part of the city. The children of rich men are taken off, and then given up in return for a handsome reward. On one occasion a merchant who had suffered in this way, two of his children having been taken off, refused to pay and requested the Viceroy to send troops to take the miscreants: the latter were indignant at this treatment, and accordingly—it is said—killed and cooked the children for their father's benefit. The prospect of more Thyestean feasts has now proved a sufficient deterrent from similar action; and rewards are now paid without hesitation. More doubtful tales of kidnapping come in from country villages, where it is said that a number of men exist who have the power of compelling people to follow them—a sort of mesmeric power which sounds very effective, though it sounds also rather legendary. Now the complaints are numerous and insistent about these elusive practices.

SUPERSTITION.

But in the city also there are just now equal calls upon popular superstition, for placards abound in which terrible calamities are promised next week, and many deaths by disease to those who do not mend their ways. On the other hand the sick are being wonderfully cured by a man named Lei, who is fortunate enough to have the reputation of being attended by a spirit with healing powers, and so numerous have been the demands upon him that he is rapidly amassing a fortune. Truly, as Carlyle said, the age of miracles is not dead.

BRITISH INVASION OF TIBET!

Nor is sensation here from abroad lacking, for the local Press this week have "authentic" accounts from "Special Correspondents" of a British Invasion of Tibet. It is announced that 11,000 troops, of whom 3,000 are British, and 1,000 are Ghurkas, have entered Tibet; while later intelligence was received to-day that 150 Russians have entered the country on the other side. "This," it is feelingly remarked, "is news which concerns not only China, but the whole world."

WEATHER.

To descend to the dull but solid region of fact, the rains have not abated; though there are occasional glimpses now of better days to come. The railway from here to Fatshan is suffering somewhat from the continued rainfall, as the enbankment (upon which no lines yet appear) is apt to subside after a heavy fall.

THE "NURNBERG" IN A TYPHOON.

The German steamer *Nurnberg*, which arrived here on the 2nd inst., ran into a typhoon on the 30th inst., three and a half days out from Singapore. The first force of the storm was experienced about half-past twelve on the 31st inst., and for about twelve hours the steamer was battered and tossed about by the wind and waves. One German seaman was swept overboard and drowned, and nearly every one of the other members of the crew suffered injury, as well as several Chinese passengers travelling in the steerage. The ship stood in great danger for some time, and had to be slowed down to ride out the typhoon, which carried away a companion-ladder leading from the lower to the upper deck and a couple of steam pipes connected with the winches.

The Italian steamer *Capri* and the Japanese steamer *Tamba Maru*, which also arrived on the 2nd inst. from the South, got the edge of the typhoon only, and escaped without mishap.

Owing to the large number of the repairs, and to the arrangements which have been made with various administrations for maintaining their cables in good order, the Great Northern Telegraph Company are to provide another cable steamer for use in the Far East. A new and larger vessel is being built in the yards of Burmeister and Wain at Copenhagen.

"WAR" OPERATIONS IN THE CHINA SEA.

According to the service papers there were some interesting "war" operations in the neighbourhood of Hongkong in the month of March. On the 10th the cruisers *Talbot* and *Eclipse* left Hongkong and kept company until noon on the 11th. At that hour "war" was declared between France, as represented by these two ships, with Saigon as a base; and Britain, as represented by the cruiser *Argonaut*, with Hongkong as a base. The *Talbot* and *Eclipse* were commerce destroyers, and, parting company at noon on the 11th, the *Eclipse* took station to intercept all commerce between Manila and Singapore and Hongkong, and the *Talbot* between Shanghai and the North and Hongkong. "Our first capture" (says the writer) "was the P. and O. *Valetta*, with the homeward going mails from Shanghai and Japan, and after escorting her for 1½ hours she became a capture. We passed the *Argonaut*, but having disguised ourselves were not chased.

"We overhauled several Japanese, German, French, and United States boats, and must have caused a little consternation by chasing them, showing searchlights on the stern, and then leaving. On Saturday morning, the 14th, the *Argonaut* was sighted, as we were after the P. and O. *Chusan*, with the outward mails. We immediately got ready for forced draught, and were off. We were built in 1895, at Devonport, for 19.5 knots, and the *Argonaut* for 21.5 knots, but it took the latter four hours to gain 1½ knots on us. She got within three miles of us, and put us out of action for 24 hours. We met the *Eclipse* later, and found she had not seen the *Argonaut*, but had captured the P. and O. *Chusan*. We also captured a collier with nearly 6,000 tons of coal (a most valuable vessel), the Canadian-Pacific's *Empress of China*, and the *Athenian*, the *Indiana*, with a cargo of flour, and six others. On the 20th we exchanged positions with the *Eclipse*, being in communication by wireless telegraphy. During the middle watch on Sunday, 22nd, we sighted the *Argonaut*, but having a very severe case in the sick bay steamed towards her, and were put out of action again. Later in the day the *Argonaut* gave us several hundredweight of ice for the patient, she having refrigerating and ice-making machinery.

"On the 23rd we made all preparations for cutting the cable to Singapore, and having remained over it for several hours without being disturbed were successful. At 2.30 a.m. on the 24th we got on the course for Hongkong, and steamed in the western entrance at a very rapid pace considering the large amount of shipping there at anchor. We were flying no ensign and three of the batteries fired on us, but we were past them, and successful. Dodging, practically, from behind one steamer to another, we got very close to the flagship *Glory* before we broke our ensign. We steamed past the fleet, turned round, and anchored off Kowloon. The *Talbot* was the first ship to arrive there, the *Eclipse* following at 5.30 p.m., nearly ten hours after us.

"The *Talbot* did so well that, notwithstanding we had 48 hours' general leave only a month ago, we were now given 36 hours' general leave. Thus it will be seen what might have happened had we got on the scene before the steamers had known of a declaration of war."

Major-General Sir Alfred Gaselee is, in recognition of his service in China, to be given the command of the Bengal Army, vice Lieut.-General Sir George Luck, who was obliged to proceed home at the end of last year in consequence of ill-health. Sir Alfred Gaselee will take up the command with the rank of Lieut.-General.

The P. & O. s.s. *Massilia*, which brought the English mail on the 4th is one of the oldest vessels in the Company's service and is to be sold after her next trip. She made a good run up from Singapore and was well ahead of her time. Several of her passengers were bound for Europe *via* the Siberian railway, including Mr. L. G. Fraser, editor of the *Times of India*, who is to write a series of letters for that journal on his trip.

RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA.

THE PROTEST OF THE UNITED STATES.

The official denials from St. Petersburg of the truth of the reported negotiation of a Convention which would give Russia sovereign rights over Manchuria have undoubtedly allayed excitement, though they have not convinced the world of Russia's intention to honestly fulfil the pledges contained in the Manchurian Convention of April, 1902.

The following interesting account of the interchange of views between the United States and Russia, supplied to the *Times* by its New York correspondent at the end of last month, will not be without interest now to residents in the Far East:—

The Governments of Russia and the United States are in active communication in regard to Manchuria. Russia appears to be well pleased at Mr. Hay's playing a lone hand. Her aim being to divide the Powers interested, deal with each separately, and prevent any common or joint action, she naturally rejoices in the isolation of the United States, be the cause of isolation what it may. The State Department announces unofficially that United States interests are purely commercial interests. Count Cassini thereupon rises from his sick-bed, visits Mr. Hay on Sunday at his private house, and assures him that Russia has no warmer desire than to protect these commercial interests. He has, and has long had, an organ in the American Press on which he plays, as occasion serves, Russian airs. He plays one to-day.

Mr. McCormick, the American Ambassador in St. Petersburg, having presented Mr. Hay's "note of enquiry" to Count Lamsdorff, Count Cassini is instructed to say how deeply disappointed is Russia at the American attitude. He repeats that the Tsar will make good his pledges to the United States. Asked to reconcile the pledge of the open door with the closing of the "ports" of Mukden and Takushan, he again takes refuge in smooth generalities. If those particular "ports" be not open, advantages will be granted to the United States equivalent to any she would have gained if China observed the treaty and the ports remained treaty ports. And these advantages, adds the wily diplomatist, will be exclusive to America. But China must close those "ports" to the rest of the world. Moreover, if the United States desires to reap the benefit of this special exemption on her behalf she will doubtless withdraw her present objection to Russian arrangements for Manchuria, which in any case will not be modified.

This is the Russian version of what has thus far occurred between Count Cassini and Mr. Hay. Sceptics, some of them English, who doubted from the first whether the promises Mr. Hay obtained from Russia about the open door were binding in form or, whatever their form, would be fulfilled by Russia, are rejoicing to-day in their unbelief. But St. Petersburg may well take note of what is now said in American journals formerly Russia's warmest friends. The *Sun* is one. To-day it follows yesterday's brief article with a full analysis of the Russian demands on China. It rejects them one by one and declares that "the United States cannot acquiesce in China's acceptance of these demands." It concludes as follows:—

"In the face of a proper protest from Washington it is difficult to believe that the Russian Government will persist in the extraordinary demands put forward at Peking by its representative."

But the proper protest from Washington has been made and we see what the Russian answer is. It is not the final answer, perhaps, but neither on this side has the last word been said. The matter is one on which it is quite possible that the Government's hand may be forced. American attention is not always easily attracted to disputes so remote, but it was instantly fixed on this and American indignation at Russian methods is rising hourly higher. It will be strengthened by this afternoon's telegram from London, said to be official, that China has formally refused to grant the Russian demands. In refusing she will have the full moral support of the United States—diplomatic support, also possibly support of a more effective kind. The Ambassadors and Ministers of almost every Power directly concerned have been thronging

to Mr. Hay's room in the State Department since this morning. When I speak of effective support for China I do not mean support by arms, which it is far too soon to suggest as even a possible contingency. Other support comes first, but the other sentiment also is aroused. Paris to-day says that France supports Russia. That means another check to American sympathisers with France.

The comment of the St. Petersburg semi official journal *Novoe Vremya* on the recent information supplied by the Peking correspondent of the *Times* and Reuter's Agency with regard to the new Russian demands in Manchuria is worth quoting. After poking a great deal of would-be fun at the indignation displayed by the British Press, it enumerates the new conditions on which Russia is alleged to have made her evacuation of Manchuria depend, and says:—

"Of course there is nothing extraordinary about these demands, which merely secure Russia's interests in Manchuria, where we acquired undoubted rights after the events of 1900. But neither the English nor the Japanese, to judge by the newspaper extracts, are willing to reckon with these rights, and thus immediately the Russian demands became known in Peking the representatives of Great Britain and Japan strongly urged Prince Ching to make a protest and to demand in his turn that the position of Manchuria should be made the same as it was before 1900. . . . .

"We are able to declare on the basis of information received from the most trustworthy sources that Russia has not presented any kind of ultimatum whatever to the Chinese Government and, moreover, has not demanded from China the signature of a new agreement with regard to Manchuria as a condition of our evacuation of that country. The statements of Reuter's Agency and the telegram of the Peking Correspondent of the *Times* are pure fabrications."

In the House of Lords on May 1st, the Marquis of Lansdowne spoke as follows:—I may perhaps supplement by a few words the statement which I made in reply to Lord Spencer last night upon the subject of the evacuation of Manchuria. I have received from the Russian Ambassador, to whom I had addressed an enquiry upon the subject, a verbal statement to the following effect: 'The information which has reached the British Government as to the conditions required for the evacuation of Manchuria is not at all correct. The discussions which are proceeding at Peking concern Manchuria alone, and have reference to certain guarantees which are indispensable for securing the most important Russian interests in the province after the withdrawal of the Russian troops. As for measures which might tend to exclude foreign Consuls or obstruct foreign commerce and the use of ports, such measures are far from entering into the intentions of the Imperial Government. They consider, on the contrary, that the development of foreign commerce is one of the main objects for which the Russian Government have undertaken the construction of the lines of railway in that part of the world.

Reuter's correspondent wiring from Peking said:—

The official denial from St. Petersburg of the authenticity of the published accounts of Russia's demands regarding Manchuria has elicited the comment in the Legations here interested in the matter that Russia's diplomatic machinery shows a lack of harmony, as on the day the denial was issued M. Plançon, the Russian *Chargé d'Affaires*, admitted to two of his colleagues here that their information on the subject was correct.

From the *China Times* of the 21st ult. we learn that Lieutenant Grey, a British officer well known in Tientsin and Tongshan, while on the way from Lutai to Shanhaikwan with two native Indian soldiers, all mounted, was attacked by robbers 30 miles west of Tongshan. Native Christians sent word to Tongshan, and the mounted infantry there immediately set out for the scene of the attack, and found Lieut Grey and the two Indian troopers all wounded.

RUSSIAN TRADE IN THE FAR EAST.

Before a meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Russian Trade and Industry at Odessa, M. Merkuloff delivered, last month, an address, the general tenour of which explains Russia's desire to adopt a "closed door" policy in Manchuria, says the *Standard's* co respondent. The lecturer, who spoke from a very comprehensive and complete knowledge of his subject, pointed out, in the first place, that, in spite of all its persevering efforts, this country's export trade to China was comparatively infinitesimal. China's imports last year were valued at three hundred and twenty-three millions of roubles, and to this total the Russian contribution was twenty-eight thousand roubles. The high freight rates from European Russia to the Far East may, in some degree, account for this. From Odessa to Vladivostock the freight rate is two and a half times higher than that from Hamburg to the same Far Eastern port. Besides this drawback, however, Russian products generally fail to hold their own with those of Western Europe in the Chinese markets.

Turning his attention to the Chinese Easter Railway, M. Merkuloff said that the connection of Kharbin with Dalny by rail had not in the lightest degree improved Russia's Far Eastern trade; on the contrary, the opening up of that route had given an impetus to foreign competition. The Southern section of the Manchurian line, more especially, had proved positively injurious to Russia's commercial interests in that region. If Russian trade is to have anything like a fair chance in Manchuria, the transport tariff must be reduced seventy-five per cent.

China will never become an important consumer of Russian products so long as there are no flourishing Russian industries on the Chinese frontier, in Manchuria, and on the Amur littoral, and until the Amur Railway is built. Under the existent state of things, said M. Merkuloff, Russian trade and commerce in the Far East were hopelessly handicapped, and a successful, or partially successful, competition against the West European manufacturers and exporters and against American and Japanese enterprise was practically impossible. The politico-commercial policy of the Manchurian railway—it were idle to disguise the fact—has, in its result, been something worse than abortive. Instead of gaining new markets Russia is losing old ones, and her project of industrial colonisation and development in Manchuria and on the Amur is marred by the foreigner. The present conditions are intolerable. Russia must devise the means of preventing the entry of foreign merchandise into Manchuria, except through the ports of Nicolaievsk and Vladivostock, and a general prohibition must be established in favour of Russian trade and commerce in the Amur region.

M. Merkuloff then, in conclusion, referred oracularly to certain representations being made, or about to be made, to the Chinese Government by the Russian Minister at Peking, in relation to Manchuria, curiously coincident with a recent and sensational revelation of Russia's designs in that province of the Middle Kingdom

RUSSIA AND NEWCHWANG.

In the House of Commons on April 30th, Mr. J. Walton asked whether, seeing that Russia had collected and retained the Imperial Maritime Customs Revenues at Newchwang since August, 1900, and in view of the fact that these form part of the security for Chinese loans, His Majesty's Government had made representations to the Russsian Government in regard to the restoration of these moneys in the interests of British bondholders; and, if so, with what results?

Lord Cranborne: We have been informed that the duties collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs at Newchwang are paid into the Russo-Chinese Bank to the credit of the Chinese Government, minus the monthly amount required for the support of the offices. I understand that the Russian authorities claim to deduct from this fund the amount expended by them for repair of the Shanhaikwan-Newchwang Railway. Further enquiries are being made as to whether such an arrangement would endanger the security of the bondholders.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

Mr. J. M. Maclean, formerly editor of the *Bombay Gazette*, writes an able, if somewhat prejudiced, article in the May issue of the *Magazine of Commerce*. He contends that this railway is a blow to our commercial supremacy in the Far East, and concludes:—

We have been in the habit of regarding Russia as nothing but an overgrown military empire, but her efforts for many years past have been mainly devoted to the prosecution of works of industrial activity. The Crimean War was an excellent lesson for her. It taught her her own weakness, threw her back upon herself, and compelled her to study the means of making the world recognise her real greatness. It seems absurd now to remember that the Western Powers of Europe imagined they could cripple Russia for all time and bind all her maritime aspirations in chains by shutting her up within the frozen waters of the Baltic and the jealously-guarded portal of the Black Sea. Russia has since made use of her restored strength and the friendship of France to burst in pieces the bond by which the Treaty of Paris essayed to fetter her young limbs. She has also made the Black Sea completely her own. The Turkish flag only flies there by her permission. The whole coast, from the Balkans right round through the now emancipated provinces of Turkey, to the Caucasus and the annexed Turkish territory between Kars and Batoum, now belongs to the Russian Empire. The Caucasus once the home of bands of intractable brigands, has been conquered, opened out, and traversed by railways. At Baku, on the Caspian, the discovery of perennial wells of oil has enriched the whole country, and converted a poor, decaying town into a populous and wealthy city. The whole of the rich province of Khorassan, in Northern Persia, has practically become Russian; new lines of railway on both banks are surmounting the break of the Caspian Sea. The whole of the fertile country of Central Asia, down to the mountainous barrier of the Hindu Khush, is now Russian territory. The officers of the Tsar are eagerly pushing forward the construction of the trunk line from Orenburg to Tashkend, which will complete railway communication from Moscow to the Oxus, and which, but for Afghan prejudice, fostered by the stupid policy of the Government of India, which seeks to erect a sort of Chinese wall at the Himalayas to protect the Indian frontier, would quickly link together the Russian and Indian railway systems, complete an overland line from Calais to Calcutta, and enable English travellers to reach the Indian capital in less than 10 days' time. All this truly marvellous work of putting new life into Asia has now been crowned by the railway from Europe to the Pacific coast of China. It is charitable to suppose that Mr. Arthur Balfour little knew what he was talking about when he invited Russia to take possession of Port Arthur. He was not merely giving away a strategical position, but admitting Russia to share with England the mastery of the Pacific. No wonder he was taken at his word. For 200 years the main object of Russian policy had been to gain admission to a free port on the ocean. This was the secret of Russia's constant yearning to reach the Persian Gulf, and the relentless vigour with which she pitilessly assailed Turkey till she became mistress of the Black Sea and the channel into the Mediterranean. Now England herself asked her to become a great maritime power. Russia gleefully assented, and then, while the organised brigandage of the rest of Christian Europe displayed its superior civilisation by ruthlessly butchering the Chinese people and pillaging Peking, Russia in the most systematic manner effected the annexation to her empire of the great province of Manchuria, in which she found fertile territory, populous cities, a swarming population, rivers abounding in fish and navigated by immense numbers of native craft; and in which she has lost no time in constructing a railway which extends her Siberian line as far as Port Arthur. Now she, indeed, "bestrides the narrow world like a Colossus" She has become an immense homogeneous self-sufficing empire, and is practically unassailable by the fleets of any maritime Power. For this unhoped-for consummation, on a grander scale, of the policy of Peter the Great she has to thank the Prime Minister of England,

The commercial, as well as the political, consequences of the completion of this great enterprise cannot but be prodigious; but it is proverbially difficult to forecast what course commerce will take, and changes which one expects to be immediate often take long years to reach maturity. What is certain is that vast regions of a world which seemed to be dead have suddenly been opened to the busy traffic and eager curiosity of Europe. We have become accustomed, for so many years, to the marvelous growth of America, and have followed with such obsequious admiration the progressive advance of the New World in the arts of civilisation, that we seem to have forgotten the existence of the Old World. Yet Asia is still the largest of all the continents, and is unequalled in the swarming multitude of her population and the abounding fertility and wealth of her immense natural resources. The history of mankind is practically a record of the immemorial contest for supremacy between Europe and Asia. After a prolonged struggle, the splendid Asiatic monarchies were finally subdued to the dominion of Greek civilisation, which lasted for just 1,000 years. But there is no escape from the working of the inevitable law of action and reaction, and the Arabian conquests swept the Europeans out of the East, and never spent their force till a great part of Europe itself had been brought under Moslem rule. After many centuries, there came another swing of the pendulum, and, since Spanish and Portuguese explorers found their way round the Cape into Indian waters, the whole of the East has accepted the supremacy of the maritime nations of Western Europe. Now another great revolution seems to be inevitable. The resurrection of land traffic throughout the vast Asiatic continent must strike a blow at the monopoly which an island empire like England has enjoyed through the preponderance of her shipping trade. The Suez Canal had previously done us much harm. In the old days, when Asia could only be approached by means of a long voyage round the Cape, England did just what she liked in the East, and had no competition to fear. Securely seated in her possession of India, whence she could draw unlimited supplies of men and money to maintain her authority, she ruled, the undisputed mistress of the Indian and Chinese Seas, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, and was obeyed by every nation from Zanzibar to Japan. This security was rudely disturbed by the intrusion through the Canal of every European Power, and by the determination, as was shown in the recent Chinese War, of French, Germans and Russians to be partakers along with us in the spoils of the East.

Now a blow is struck, not merely at our political supremacy, but at the maritime trade which is the secret of our wealth and strength. China can now be reached by a route unfamiliar to Englishmen and controlled by foreign hands. The extension of the new railway from Port Arthur to Peking can only be a question of a very few years, and already the populous market of Northern China has been opened to the immediate intercourse of Eastern Europe. The value of commerce with the East is quite incalculable, and upon its possession has always depended the wealth and power of Western nations. England owns in India the richest and most valuable part of the Asiatic Continent, and the great rivers and inland waters of Asia will always make her coasts very accessible. But now, suddenly, the northern part of Asia, which we have always looked upon as of no account, has been brought into prominence. The far-sighted policy of Russia aims not merely at the possession but the effective occupation of Siberia and Manchuria. For years the Russian ships sailing from Odessa to the Far East have been crowded with families of emigrants from Southern Russia, who have gone under the protection of the Tsar, and with special gifts, to settle in a new country. Siberia, it has been proved, has plenty of good agricultural land and mineral wealth and in the temperate latitudes to the south, far from the Arctic Sea, white workers can live and prosper. Here, then, Russia is quietly building up a new kingdom. Her supremacy over Northern China, too, is now complete. Her commerce with that immense and prosperous empire has hitherto been limited to a few caravans arriving once a year at the fair of Nijni Novgorod. Now she can exchange freely goods carried by train with all the products of Chinese labour and ingenuity. It is, no doubt, possible to make too much even of the value of Eastern trade. Lord Curzon exposed himself lately to a deserved rebuke when he told the Indian princes to encourage native art, instead of making purchases in Tottenham Court Road. Sir J. Blundell Maple showed conclusively that his firm is the largest purchaser of the Indian carpets which Lord Curzon thinks are neglected.

But the first great success of the new railway will consist in its acquisition of the mail and passenger service. No correspondent will send his letters by a sea voyage of 35 days to Shanghai when they can be carried by land in 18, soon to be reduced to 15 days. Time is money, and no traveller intent on business will spend five weeks on board a steamer when he can compass the same distance on land in less than half the time. The great steamship companies in England have not yet taken the alarm, but the danger overhanging their business is not the less real. We may regret, on patriotic grounds, that our supremacy is threatened, but it is impossible to view without interest and sympathy a revolution which is stirring the dry bones of Asia with a breath of fresh air.

YUNG LU'S FUNERAL.

Peking, 15th May, 1903.

After a day of dry, burning heat, the wind got up at night and blew so hard it was impossible to sleep for fear of the trees being blown down and falling upon the house. It seemed as if each gust the wind said "Now you shall come down," and this morning there was one broken down upon an adjacent roof and the ground strewn with leaves and twigs and great strips of bark. But the air, how different! Even in a woollen dress, I was shivering as we started out at 6 o'clock on foot because it was too cold to sit in rickshas, to see Yung Lu's funeral. It seemed but the other day he was the Alcibiades of China, the handsome man with whom girls fell in love, and to whom horses none else could ride were sent because he could always subdue them. And now he was dead. And most of the foreign papers had articles upon him as if one of the great movers of hatred against foreigners had been removed. But to me this has never seemed true.

At this gate was now waiting the huge catafalque that was to hide away the remains; leaving it behind, one by one the various details of the procession were reviewed as we walked past resting-place after resting-place erected by the wayside, with little altars on which were piles of cakes and pyramids of apples; those last generally made of flour and preternaturally rosy, but in one case certainly real, and where people were to come out and do reverence and bow low as the coffin passed. All the Six Boards of Peking were thus represented. As a rule the rest-places were tents with windows made of blue gauze. We walked on and on till we came to the Chao Yang gate and there looked round upon the lovely view of Peking City, a forest of trees with the yellow Palace roofs just peeping above the spring green, in the distance the square drum tower with beside it the bell tower, near at hand the glittering green roofs of a temple dedicated to those who have attained virtue, in the middle distance the pavilion clad Coal Hill, and behind it the Pagoda by the northern lake. The road straight from there was that along which the procession was to pass, and in the distance the Western hills standing out clear against the sky, a deep deep blue, except where they were covered with fresh fallen snow of the past night from which the wind blew to us with a most refreshing fillip.

We came down off the wall and walked to meet the procession. First men on horseback with European straw hats a little incongruously surmounting their red waistcoats, which with green sashes tied round them and red saddles showed out well. Then Yuan Shihkai's soldiers in dark fitting clothes with again straw hats. After them came the falconers in grey and black carrying a beautiful hooded bird, the other leading the dead man's hound; there are seven of them, said one of this very well and effectively dressed little party. Quite an array of titles each borne by a man in a long green gown with discs upon it; after them came two dogs, two pavilions, two does and two stags, four men made out of green bushes, then lion dogs, one gold, one silver, looking particularly ridiculous as they wagged their heads on being carried, the long weepers attached to the gold lion's ears becoming greatly agitated. After them a long array of flags and red umbrellas and plants in fullest flower all made of paper but in real flower pots and vases; again titles and all manner of insignia woven out of greenery, long white banners, men still in green and red livery leading five ponies with handsome red silk gowns thrown over their saddles. In between mourners in white clothes smoking cigarettes, then came men sounding those antique wooden trumpets, which may have breathed their deep sounds before the flood. After them men, in the Palace livery, long red gowns with discs again, carrying all Yung Lu's titles and the umbrellas presented. Behind them came Mongol Lamas looking like particularly grand Mandarins in their golden brocades, and men only less splendid in red brocade with black caps who said they were neither Lamas nor Taoists, but as far as I could make out Lo To from the Pai-yui-mao. They were said to have queues inside their caps, but it did not look like it. Then many fantastic yellow constructions were carried by, green sedan chairs borne by mourners every now and then, and men with red clothes and a very high fez-like cap, flat back and front, who carried a gong but did not strike it as far as I saw. Then came Yung Lu's cart lined with blue silk, his horse, I presume, another green sedan chair covered with leopard skins in which he was carried in processions, and which being empty went by with a jiggety-joggety motion as if mocking, "He is dead, dead, the man who used to ride in me; see how alive I am!" Then other chairs carried by mourners, a mule litter with flowering boughs laid on the seat. After that mock horses made of paper with wheels under their feet, but with real manes and tails. Many of these, and more with mock cars made of paper. Crowds of men dressed in green with blue feathers upstanding, throwing up into the air clouds of paper money. After this there were carried by imitation officials caps, necklaces, purses and tobacco pouches and spectacle cases, books, etc., all to be burnt at the grave, and thus accompany the spirit. And then amidst a crowd of soldiery the catafalque itself covered with red brocade with a little shawl pattern on it, not half so effective we thought as the pall so often seen in Peking of dark blue with large golden dragons worked upon it. Behind the coffin mourning carts and chairs, in each a woman in white with white cloths tied round the head but as a rule smoking a cigarette. Then many smart carts and some very good-looking horses. Every here and there along the route was a little bonfire of paper money. Innumerable Manchu women had turned out in their best clothes and their extraordinary high heads of hair to see the funeral. Some were very pretty, but most were disfigured by the red paint on their eyelids as well as all over their cheeks. Nearly every nation seems to have some disfiguring custom of this kind which to itself seems beautiful. And as we exchanged glances and smiles, I the more regretted that not being native born on seeing some nice freshly laid earth I had stepped upon it to find it had only been laid over the surface of a quagmire into which my foot sank five inches above the shoe before a friend extracted me. But as we came home through the crisp morning air we could not mind that or anything. The booths for resting-places were being already torn down barely two minutes after the corpse had been borne by; thus the ripple in the water smooths over after a stone has been removed; thus the world that is alive resumes its usual way of life after one of those we call most prominent is removed from view. But to my fancy Yung Lu's spirit would not be yet sufficiently freed from the clogging bonds of the flesh to be either mortified or pleased by the sight of all going on as before, only Yung Lu gone!

It was not nearly such a smart funeral as that of many a Shanghai merchant, but among the crowd were faces and folks who seemed to belong to a prehistoric age, and meeting them in the street was like coming face to face with a long ago dead and gone past.—*Peking and Tientsin Times.*

THE MANILA INVESTMENT CO., LD.,

The third ordinary meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held on the 3rd inst Following is a copy of the report :—

Gentlemen,—In accordance with Article III. of Articles of Association, the directors now beg to submit their report for the half-year ending the 30th April, 1903.

During the half-year under review we have sold the business of the Botica de Santo Cruz for $170,000. We have also considered it advisable not to renew our lease of the Luneta Grand Hotel which expired on 31st De ember last.

The carriage factory is now satisfactorily leased; but its working shows a loss in bad debts of $1,574.77.

The Mariveles Quarries account shows a loss of $180, which is six months' salary to a caretaker. Your directors are considering the advisability of abandoning these, as they do not see any prospect of remunerative business.

Deducting the balance carried forward from last account, the extraordinary losses consequent upon the sale of the Botica de Santa Cruz and the winding up of the Luneta Grand Hotel, we make a profit on the half-year's working of $10,156.09.

Directors.—A full board of directors has to be elected. Audit.—The accounts have been audited by Mr. D. M. Fleming, who offers himself for re-election.

BENJAMIN, KELLY & POTTS,
General Managers.

Manila, 20th May, 1903.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET
30th April, 1903.

LIABILITIES	$ c.	$ c.
Capital account	1,000,000.00	
Less unissued shares	363,000.00	637,000.00
Sundry creditors		26,273.62
		$663,273.62

ASSETS.	$ c.	$ c.
Cost of sundry concerns	602,000.00	
Less cost of Botica de Santa Cruz	130,000.00	
Less cost of Luneta Grand Hotel	15,000.00	
	145,000.00	
	457,000.00	
Additional plant and stock	6,475.28	
		463,475.28
Sundry debtors		68,509.70
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, deposit account		30,000.00
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, current account		3,106.96
Fire insurance		500.54
Messrs. Santos & Jahrling		36,937.89
Balance		60,943.25
		$663,273.62

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	$ c.
General charges	516.98
Mariveles Stone Quarries	180.00
Interest account	647.76
General managers' fees	3,750.00
Auditor's fees	250.00
Manila carriage factory	1,574.77
Balance	10,156.09
	$17,075.60

Cr.	$ c.
Giralda Hotel	449.08
English Hotel	170.37
Manila Aerated Water Co	1,745.09
"Manila American"	3,000.00
"Manila Times"	4,880.14
Paris Restaurant	6,750.00
Exchange account	71.01
Transfer fees	10.00
	$17,075.60

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
For the half-year, ending 30th April, 1903.

LOSSES.	$ c.
To balance carried forward from last account	24,772.20
To loss on Botica sale	32,149.97
To loss on Luneta Grand Hotel	14,177.17
	$71,099.34

PROFITS.	$ c.
By balance from working account	10,156.09
By balance	60,943.25
	$71,099.34

CHINA LIGHT & POWER CO., LD.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The second ordinary annual meeting of shareholders in the China Light and Power Co., Ld., was held on the 31st ult. at eleven o'clock forenoon in the offices. The Hon. R. Shewan (chairman) presided, and the others present were the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., Dr. J. W. Noble, and Messrs. J. H. Lewis, G. C. Moxon, C. A. Tomes, A. Babington, and A. Reid.

The notice calling the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, With your permission, we will take the report and accounts, which have been in your hands for some time, as read. I said when I met you here this time last year, that I thought we had seen the last of our troubles at Canton, but I am sorry to say that I was mistaken. A loss of over $17,000, as the result of the year's work at Canton, is most unfortunate—it has been due almost entirely to one cause, and that is the faulty engines with which we are working there. The original engine was ordered by the former Chinese company in 1898, and another similar one was added the following year, but they have proved quite unsuitable and their extravagant coal consumption makes it impossible for us to work at a profit. In the beginning of the year, things went fairly well, although we were never greatly pleased with the engines, but as soon as we began to work them to their full capacity they broke down, and this happened over and over again until our customers' patience, as well as our own, was fairly worn out. By careful watching and nursing we have managed to keep free from accident for the last two months, but we dare not take on any new business; the factory is not doing its full work and is not, therefore, running at a profit as it should be doing, while our engineer assures us that with all the attention he can give, it may be only a question of a few months before there will be a much more serious breakdown than any we have yet had. Under such circumstances, with continual stoppages, loss of our working time, and the heavy expense of repairs to machinery, it would not have been surprising if our loss had been still greater. At the moment we are working at a slight loss at Canton, but in a short time expect to make both ends meet. That will be the utmost we can do, so we are forced to give up all idea of ever doing any real good with these engines. There is consequently only one thing left for us to do now, and that is to replace them at once by a new set of the most modern and most economical design. As you are, perhaps aware, there have been great improvements in electrical engines of late years, and we estimate that for an expenditure of about $80,000 we can obtain a set of three engines, two of which would give us one hundred per cent. better results than the present two, while we should have an extra one in reserve in case of accident. In spite of all these difficulties and disappointments there is, however, no reason why we should lose heart. The business is there, and will, I feel certain, prove a very profitable one if we persevere with it. The demand is good—the Shameen community have only lately insisted upon our running a day load in order to supply them with power for electric fans, &c., and we do not anticipate any difficulty whatever in obtaining fresh customers for all the extra supply from the new engines on terms which should leave a handsome profit for the Company. Not only this, to supply such a large city as Canton would require many larger installations than ours, and whilst striving not to appear unduly optimistic I cannot help saying that I feel there are great possibilities in the future for us there. As regards Kowloon, there have been no troubles beyond continual struggles with the contractor over the extraordinary delay which took place in completing the building, and which was imputed to scarcity of skilled labour. Everything otherwise has worked very smoothly and satisfactorily since the factory started in February. Orders are coming in, but of course we cannot fill them all at once, as it takes time to make the necessary communications and put in installations. We have now installed over 500 lights, bringing in about $1,200 per month, against an expenditure of $1,900 per month, but at the present rate of progress it will only be a little time before the difference will be in our favour. We have three sets of engines and generators there, two for use and one for reserve. At present we can do all we require with one set, but we hope it will not be long before we shall have to keep the other going as well. The next question we have to consider is that of finance. You will see from the accounts that we were in debt to the extent of say $220,000 which has been increased since then to $227,574. This is of course simply in consequence of our not having increased our capital (which was intended to cover the cost of the Kowloon works only) when we decided to take over the Canton factory, which you will see stands us in with material and everything over $200,000 extra. The reason why we did not ask for more capital then was that, as most of you are aware, we had great hopes at that time of merging the two concerns in another much larger electrical undertaking. The negotiations as to this have, however, been protracted far beyond what we ever anticipated, and meantime we have had to find the necessary funds for continuing the business in the best way we could. We reckon that to cover our present indebtedness and pay for the new engines at Canton, leaving a little over for working capital, we shall require about $350,000, and we propose to obtain this by issuing $150,000 new capital, say 15,000 shares of $10 each, and debentures for $200,000, in 8 per cent. bonds of $1,000 each at $975, or of $100 at $97.50. As an inducement to new shareholders we propose to put them on equal terms with the old shareholders by writing down the old shares to $10 each, and as a further inducement, and also to show their own faith in the future of the Company, the general managers will guarantee a dividend of 6 per cent. on the new shares for three years. The debentures, too, on the terms named should prove a good opportunity to those who prefer that form of investment. This is the best way out of our difficulties that we can think of, and unless any shareholder has a better suggestion to make, we shall call the necessary meetings for the purpose in due course. I fully sympathise with shareholders in their very natural disappointment with the result now laid before you, but you will gather from what I have just told you that things are by no means so bad as you may have thought. The general managers are among the largest shareholders and have suffered accordingly, but still have every confidence in the future of this Company and will willingly take up their full share of any new issue. In addition to Messrs. Lewis and Chater we recommend the election of Dr. J. W. Noble, who has a large share in the company and who takes a great interest in its fortunes. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions that shareholders may put.

There were no questions, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Dr. NOBLE, the report and accounts as presented were adopted and passed.

Mr. NOXON next moved that Sir Paul Chater, Dr. Noble, and Mr. J. H. Lewis be elected to the consulting committee.

Mr. BABINGTON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The only other item of business was the election of auditors, and on the motion of Mr. LEWIS, seconded by Mr. REID, Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. O'D. Gourdin were re-elected.

The British Commercial Agent in Russia reports that with the forthcoming opening of regular traffic on the Manchurian Railway, the tea trade will, according to the *Commercial and Industrial Gazette*, receive a considerable impulse from the direct communications organised by the new line, with the steamer service attached to it, enabling tea to be carried direct from Hankow, Shanghai, and Ceylon to the chief stations of the Siberian and Russian railway systems, including Moscow, Nijni, St. Petersburg and Warsaw. The full cost of delivery per poud (36 lbs.) of tea from the above named ports will be from 4.79 roubles to 5.1 roubles to Moscow; 5.8 roubles to 5.39 roubles to St. Petersburg; and 5.31 roubles to 5.53 roubles to Warsaw, according to port of despatch.

AN OLD DODGE,

BUT GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL.

There are other ways of relieving a person of his or her valuables than by seizing them, either by force or by stealth, and making off. The victim in that case might make a noise, and the thief would stand a good chance of being run in. The confidence trick is a quieter and safer method to adopt. It has been worked here, as elsewhere, so frequently that one would imagine it had ceased to be effective. There is always a pigeon waiting to be plucked, however. In Wanchai Road on the 28th ult. a nicely dressed Chinese woman wearing the gold ornaments usually affected by her class was accosted by a countryman accompanied by a boy. The man had a fifty-dollar note that he wanted changed, but as neither he nor his young friend was sufficiently well attired to establish his *bona-fides* in respect of the possession of the note to anyone to whom they might tender it, he would feel infinitely obliged if the woman, whose smart appearance would carry conviction anywhere, would undertake the commission and have the note transformed into handier currency. More than that, he promised that she should receive half the money for her trouble. The woman was only too pleased to act, and the man, after ostentatiously parading it before her eyes, wrapped the note up in a piece of brown paper and handed it to her. As she was going off, however, he caught her sleeve, and suggested apologetically that she might leave some security behind; he did not for one moment doubt that she would return with the money, but in these transactions it was better to observe a strict business principle, and perforce he felt constrained to make the request for a guarantee. The woman, who had a plan of her own in mind, did as the other expected and intended she should do—stripped off all her jewelry, to the value of about $30, and dropped it into the itching palm held out to receive it. Then the parcel, which had been taken from her the while she took off the ornaments, was returned, and she went away, having first promised to return as soon as possible with the change for the note. That was a subterfuge on her part, though, for chuckling at the good fortune that had met her, she made straight home with the precious little parcel clutched in her hand. She never intended going back to the other two, it afterwards transpired, but circumstances alter cases, and a discovery she made when she got into the house caused her to alter her mind with marvellous celerity and to set off in hot haste to the *rendezvous*. The parcel contained nothing, and had been substituted for the one containing the fifty-dollar bill when the jewelry was changing hands. Needless to say, the guileful couple had vanished, and the victimised female lodged information at No. 2 Police Station, Wanchai, where, in answer to interrogations, she blushingly acknowledged her scheme to rob the man of his money. Constables were sent out to endeavour to get on the track of the two rascals, but they are still at liberty, and likely to remain so.

MURDER BY A FOREIGNER IN SHANGHAI.

Quite a sensation was caused in Shanghai on the 19th and 20th ult. by the news that a Chinese had been stabbed to death, apparently without provocation, by a resident foreigner. It seems that shortly before 1 a.m. on Friday, as four native carpenter's assistants were passing No. 1,203, Singkeipang Road, one of their number, an apprentice aged 17, in putting on his jacket, accidentally touched the window of the above-mentioned house. This annoyed the occupier, one P. A. Souza, an employee of the Gas Company, and he seized a stick, rushed out of the house, and gave chase to the unfortunate apprentice. As to what followed there were two stories, differing somewhat in detail. The version of the carpenter's assistant, and a Chinese constable, who are said to have witnessed the affair, was that a Portuguese, whom they identify as P. A. Souza, chased the apprentice, and on coming up to him stabbed him either with a sheath knife or with the blade of a sword stick, under the left shoulder from behind, and that the unfortunate Chinaman fell, rose, ran on a few yards, fell again, and expired, the weapon having pierced his heart. Souza's first story, told immediately after his arrest, was to the effect that he was annoyed by his door bell having been rung. He came out of the house and seeing a native running up the road, gave chase. After chasing the man for some distance, the latter fell down, and Souza saw that he had been stabbed and was dying and immediately returned home.

Immediately after the tragedy occurred, the police were communicated with, and Sergeant Lynch and Detective Kingston set out to make enquiries and to arrest the murderer, with the result that Souza was arrested by them.

An inquest was held by the City Magistrate on Saturday, and among those present were M. Potier, Consul for Portugal; Drs. von Schab and Lalcaca, who had examined the body of the deceased; Sergeant Lynch, Detective Kingston, the prisoner, a native doctor, and a very large crowd of onlookers. The object of the inquest was, of course, to determine the cause of death, and there was little doubt that death was due to the wound found on the deceased's body, but the native doctor differed from the foreigners as to the weapon and the manner in which the wound was inflicted.

After his arrest, and previous to the inquest on Saturday, Souza confessed his guilt. He made a statement that he was disturbed by the ringing of his front-door bell, and later by his room window being broken. He seized a carving knife and ran out into the street, and seeing a native running away, chased him and struck him in the back with the knife. He did not wait to see the result of his blow, but threw the knife into the creek and ran back home.

The prisoner cannot be tried in Shanghai, but will be sent to Macao. The depositions of the various witnesses will be taken at the Portuguese Consulate.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

MISS BLAKE'S WEDDING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 2nd June.

SIR,—In view of Miss Blake's wedding to Captain Arbuthnot on Monday next, the 8th inst., might I be allowed to suggest that His Excellency should declare a public holiday on that day in honour of the event? This is the first time in the history of the Colony that a Governor's daughter has been married in Hongkong, and surely the occasion deserves to be marked in some such way as I allude to. We should all be glad to honour the wedding-day. Even although it were not convenient for the Banks to close, still a holiday might be granted to the public servants.

Section 6 of the Public Holidays Ordinance says:—

"It shall be lawful for the Governor by notification in the *Government Gazette* at any time to appoint a special day to be observed as a Bank holiday in addition to or in substitution for any days mentioned in the schedules of the Ordinance," etc.

In these circumstances there would appear to be no obstacle in the way of the declaration of a public holiday.—Yours, etc.,

OLD RESIDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 3rd June.

SIR,—I think "Old Resident's" proposal for a public holiday on the occasion of Miss Blake's marriage next Monday is a good one. The event will be unique in the domestic history of the Colony, I believe, and should be celebrated accordingly. Miss Blake, too, shares her father's popularity in the Colony, and we should all like to record our sentiments in as hearty a manner as possible.—Yours, etc.,

GOOD LUCK.

GOMES *V.* GOMES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 2nd June, 1903.

SIR,—We are instructed by Mr Francisco d'Assis Gomes to state that the amount of $3,000 damages for which he recently obtained judgment in the Original Jurisdiction Action No. 173 of 1902, has, after deduction of the sum of $376.75 due from him for legal expenses, been distributed amongst the following charities:—

The Benevolent Society	$500.00
The Society of St. Vincent de Paul	500.00
The Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, Arsenal Street	313.25
The Victoria Home & Orphanage	310.00
	$1,623.25

and to ask you to be good enough to publish this letter in your next issue.—Yours, etc.,

DEACON & HASTINGS.

KWANGSI FAMINE FUND.

The Hon. Treasurers acknowledge with thanks the following subscriptions:—

Amount previously acknowledged	$26,829.52
Kung Yuen	50
S. T. Dunn	100
W. S. Bailey & Co.	50
R. H. K.	20
Wing Cheong Lee	100
Wing Cheong Fat	100
Po Loong	100
Kwong Man Cheung	100
Kut Cheong Hing	100
Mee Chuen	100
Foo Chun	100
Yuen Sing	100
Fook Tai Wo	100
Chit Wo	100
Kwong Cheong Tai	100
Kam Tak Tai...	100
Ho Ngo Lau	100
Kwong On Wing	100
Hang On Insurance Co.	100
Hang Kee	100
Tung On Insurance Co.	100
Tung Chan	100
Chü Foo Lan	100
Po Yick Co.	100
Kwong Wing Sun	100
Kwong Yick Wo	100
Chui Tak Loong	100
Him Yick	100
Chü Wing On	100
Total	$29,549.52

Up to date 5,714 piculs of rice have been shipped for distribution amongst the sufferers at a cost of $24,993.07.

THE LU-HAN RAILWAY.

The *N.-C. Daily News* publishes a summary of an important report recently made for Messrs. Pearson & Co. who are building the line in Honan for the Peking Syndicate. Beginning with generalities, the reporting engineers give the length of the Lu-Han line as 720 miles, and in January the earthwork was completed within about 180 miles north and south of the Yellow River. The river makes a natural dividing line between the two main sections, into which, for purposes of construction, the line is divided. These main divisions are again subdivided into sections of about 40 miles each under a chief of section and having each three assistants in particular charge of yet shorter lengths of from ten to fifteen miles. There are superintendent engineers, one for each side of the Yellow River, and M. Jadot is Chief Engineer for the whole concern. From Peking to Chengtingfu, a distance of 150 miles, there was at the time of the inspection a daily through train, which takes about 12 hours to make the journey. The train consists of a first-class car with four or five second-class and as many open trucks for coolies. The portion of line thus opened is beginning to make profits which are appropriated in equal proportions to paying off the loan and carrying the construction further. By April, it was thought the line would be open to passenger traffic as far as Shuntehfu, which is approximately half-way to the river. A short branch line from Changsintien to Fêngtai, about six miles long, affords communication with the Imperial Chinese Railway and so with Tientsin.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN EASTERN SIBERIA.

The British Commercial Agent at Vladivostock, in a report recently received at the Foreign Office, remarks that up to the present time very little attention has been given by British manufacturers to the markets of Eastern Siberia. Although the enormous extent of land east of Lake Baikal is but sparsely inhabited, yet there are some 10,000,000 people who exist there and whose wants must be supplied. These people are getting more and more civilised, and they are requiring many luxuries which can be supplied by British manufacturers. Besides the native population there is a fairly large and increasing number of settlers, both free peasants and convicts; and during the last three years a large increase in the naval and military forces has taken place. It must be remembered, however, that large wholesale and retail business houses have been established for a number of years in all the principal towns of Eastern Siberia, and British merchants should endeavour to get into touch with these houses in order to get them to introduce British goods to the Siberian public. At present Germany has command of the markets for most articles, the imports from England being chiefly galvanised iron for roofing purposes, iron and steel bars, plates, wire nails, and coal. The closing of the free-port of Vladivostock and the imposition of the Russian duties which took place in January, 1902, has entirely put a stop to the import of fancy articles, woollens, prints, and similar articles, and has very much decreased the imports of canned goods, such as sardines, tinned milk, butter, and also pickles and sauces which formerly came mostly from England. Machinery for mining purposes is duty free except American, which has a duty of 40 per cent. levied on it. Brick houses are now to a large extent taking the place of the wooden ones, and there is a good demand for brick presses, especially hand ones. For the next two or three years there will probably be a large demand for bricks, as barracks for the troops which are being withdrawn from Manchuria are now being planned in the chief towns of the district. Fire bricks are mostly imported from England and are sold at very high prices, as much as £10 per thousand being charged; the local made fire brick is sold for £4 per thousand, and finds a good demand for stove purposes. There is also a demand for fancy tiles for paving shops and halls; at present these are supplied from Germany. There is a considerable sale for builders' ironmongery, carpenters' and blacksmiths' tools, but it is all in German hands; galvanised iron, which is sold in large quantities, all comes from England. As the duty is levied by weight on all metal goods, very light articles are usually imported. As regards mining machinery, the demand is growing, especially for coal mining purposes; winding engines, hauling engines, boilers, also light railways, are wanted, and one company is in the market for a complete briquette making plant. The coal mining industry is only in its infancy; the largest colliery is turning out about 5,000 tons a month, but as wood is getting scarce and expensive there is certain to be a large demand for coal, which will necessitate the opening of collieries and a good demand for all kinds of mining machinery. This should not be lost sight of by British manufacturers.

Mr. Schwabe adds:—"There is a good demand for fire-arms, especially shot guns, but it is the name that sells; the Americans have made a speciality of the gun trade and a good stock of American guns is kept here. It is of very little use sending catalogues or samples here; what the Russians want is a good stock to choose from, and they will then pay any price that is asked."

H.E. Wu Ting-fang, Associate Chinese Treaty Commissioner, has been appointed by Imperial Decree a Director of the Court of State Ceremonial.

A special telegram to the *N.C. Daily News* states that Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary for the Colonies, stated in the House that the Government had neither sanctioned nor supported the importation of Asiatics for the Transvaal mines.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DALNY.

The following extracts (in translation) from a letter from St. Petersburg *Viedomosti*, written by its Dalny correspondent, relative to the commercial development of that town, have been received at the Foreign Office in London from H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg:—

"The work of completing the new railway terminus is being pressed on. . . . The ground plan of the town has been completed. All the official buildings are constructed, the streets laid out and lighted with electricity, the harbour has been deepened and protected by breakwaters, the wharves are about half completed, one dry dock is quite ready and a second has been begun, and the town possesses a hospital, a public library, three clubs, public promenades, &c.

"A number of measures have been decided on restricting the commercial development of Port Arthur, by which Dalny will gain. The chief among these are the opening before long of a Custom-house at Dalny and making the line between Port Arthur and Nangalin a branch line. In consequence of these measures the commercial firms at Port Arthur will be obliged to forward their goods, not direct to their destination, but first to Dalny, where they must go through all the inconvenience and formalities of re-expedition. In consequence, the commercial centre of the Kwangtung Peninsula is bound to be transferred from Port Arthur to Dalny.

"This commercial evolution is already beginning to take place. . . . Our principal merchants are following the new current and abandoning Port Arthur in order to settle permanently in Dalny.

"During 1902 the export trade of Dalny was *nil*. The import trade was also insignificant. The principal import was tea, a million and a half pounds of this commodity being despatched to Russia, and at present there is a large stock of Chinese tea concentrated at Irkutsk, destined for the fair at Nijni Novgorod.

"At the opening of the navigation season this year exportation began. The first ships to leave were two Japanese steamers laden with beans. Subsequently five foreign steamers cleared with cargoes of beans. At the present moment two steamers are being loaded with goods delivered by railway from Siberia and Manchuria.

"Almost every day fresh consignments arrive from Manchuria, Siberia, and European Russia (but little from the latter). Some Chinese and Japanese steamship companies have included Dalny among their ports of call. A group of tea merchants from Colombo and Singapore are proposing to despatch tea *via* Dalny, the route being an economy of time and money since the duties on tea at Odessa amount to 92 copecks per pound, or double the duties by the Siberian land frontier at Manchuria towns. This difference of duties compensates for the increased cost of transport across Siberia.

"Unfavourable reports have been current with regard to the commercial conditions of Dalny. Such reports may often be traced to the Port Arthur newspaper, the *Novi Krai*, which systematically decries Dalny."

When the French mail steamer *Annam* left the Borneo Wharf at Singapore for Saigon, she passed close to H.M.S. *Spartiate* which was busy coaling at Tanjong Pagar. The *Annam* had a large number of French soldiers on board and for the nonce was practically a troopship. The gallant Frenchmen, says the *Free Press*, crowded to the side to get a good look at the big four-funnelled cruiser. Lieut. May, who was officer of the watch, promptly ordered up the band of the *Ocean* which was on board, and immediately the strains of the "Marseillaise" fell upon the ears of the delighted Frenchmen. The compliment was acknowledged with "Vive l'Angleterre" and "Vive le Roi," and the *Spartiate's* ship's company replied with three rousing cheers for their French comrades. It was a pleasing case of *l'entente cordiale*, which the King's friendly visit to Paris, and the prior British naval compliments to President Loubet, have done so much to create.

CHINESE IN NEW ZEALAND.

Rev. R. E. Chambers, corresponding secretary of the China Baptist Publication Society, sends us a copy of an essay entitled "New Zealand, her Chinese and other Immigrants," read before the Canton Missionary Conference on 25th March, 1903, by Rev. George Hunter McNeur, missionary of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. The following is an extract:—

The first party of Chinese immigrants came to our Colony between 1850 and 1860, attracted from Australia by the discovery of gold. These newcomers soon let their friends at home know of the new gold hills and for some years they poured into the country in great numbers. The Government became alarmed at the increase in number of their Celestial visitors, and in 1880 sought to restrict their entrance by imposing a poll-tax of £10. This was a decided check, but in order to prohibit a large influx of aliens in the future the tax was raised years ago to £100. So during the last ten years the Chinese population has been steadily decreasing, and now there are not 3,000 in the whole of the Colony. Only about one-sixth of our Chinese come from the "Four Districts." In this there is a decided contrast to the Chinese population in America and Australia. The five-sixths come from Tsang Sheng and Upper P'oon Yü. The "Four District" men are cooks, laundrymen and storekeepers; the Tsang Sheng men are market-gardeners and fruit-sellers, while the P'oon Yü men are largely gold-diggers. Some few men among them have made fairly large fortunes, most of them have made enough to keep them in comparative comfort on return to China, while some have a struggle which ends pathetically in the poor-house or lunatic asylum or at best in being sent home by subscription. Last year an Opium Prohibition Act came into force which makes the importation, sale and use of opium a crime. The petition presented to Parliament which secured this legislation was signed by several hundreds of Chinese, many themselves victims to the habit. In the district of Otago, where I was first introduced to Chinese work, there are now about 1,000 men and nearly 800 of these are from Upper P'oon Yu. These men are born gamblers. Sometimes after years of hard work they will come down with their savings to town in order to secure passage back to China. The longings of years are at last to have fulfilment. But the sight of the gaming-table is too much for them, and a few weeks later you will find them—not at the wharf boarding the steamer for home, but at the railway station returning to their up-country gold claim. Our Chinese do not seem to be denationalised at all by their residence in the Colony. I do not know any who have cut off their queues. Some there are who dress themselves out in English names and try to ape the foreigner, but these are looked at with contempt by the majority of their fellow-countrymen. Their attempt at imitation reminds me of a negro who opened a fruit-shop in a street in Dunedin just opposite and in opposition to one of our Chinese. He tried to draw custom by painting in large white letters outside of his shop, "This way to an Englishman." Some one must have told him that there was a contradiction between his white sign and black face, because he afterwards altered it to "This way to a Britisher."

The most terrible blow our Chinese in New Zealand ever suffered fell on them in November of last year. They chartered the steamship *Ventnor* to take back to China the remains of 500 of their fellow countrymen who had died in the Colony during the past twenty years. A day out from the port of Wellington she struck a rock and afterwards foundered in 200 fathoms of water. This disaster is unparalleled in their history. The death of their friends was not nearly such a calamity as the loss of their bones.

On her last voyage across the Pacific from the Orient the P. M. s.s. *China* carried opium of the commercial value of about $585,000 gold, the duty exacted being over $200,000.

The Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg gave a *déjeuner* in honour of General Kuropatin, Russian Minister of War, on the eve of the latter's departure for the Far East.

REVIEWS.

The Land of the Boxers, or China under the Allies. By Captain Gordon Casserly, Indian Army. With 15 Illustrations and a Plan. London, Longmans, Green & Co., 39 Paternoster Row.

Of books on this subject there appear to be no end, but the reader who dips into this volume will find that it possesses an attractiveness of its own which is refreshing. The book is dedicated to the Officers of the American and British Naval and Military forces in China. Fuller accounts have been published of the military operations in the troublous days of 1900, but Captain Casserly's book makes no pretence of being a standard record of these events; it may rather be described as a personal narrative of his travels and of the impressions he formed of the places visited and the people of varied nationalities with whom he was brought into contact. A very good example of his style is the amusing description of Hongkong Society we reprinted from the book a few days ago. Interesting descriptions are given in the book of Hongkong, Canton, Macao, Tientsin, Peking, Weihaiwei, Shanhaikwan and other places. There is a very readable chapter on the Allied Armies in China in which the author writes with lavish appreciation of the Japanese Army and of our own Indian troops. The final chapter entitled "China—Past, Present and Future" contains nothing that has not been said before times without number. We all know that the undeveloped wealth of China is enormous, that her soil is incredibly fertile and her people industrious, and fancy has often played with the vision of China transformed, as Japan has been transformed in the short space of forty years, as if by a magician's wand. That is as far as we get. There are signs of "a great awakening" it is true; but they lose a great deal by contrast with the signs in Japan in the fifties. Though we cannot say of Captain Casserly's book that it adds much to the knowledge of residents in the Far East, it is an eminently readable volume which should command a good sale at home, the information being reliable and interestingly written, and Hongkong readers will find much to interest them in the chapters dealing with this Colony and that of Macao. The letterpress and the illustrations, of which there are fifteen, are excellent.

Marriage. By Rev. E. J. Hardy, M.A. Hongkong, W. Brewer & Co., Queen's Road.

This is the lecture recently given by the Chaplain of H.M.'s forces before the Odd Volumes Society, and is inscribed to H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, K.C.M.G., who presided at the lecture. Though the newspaper reports, we now learn from the author, were 'more or less inaccurate" they will doubtless have sufficiently served the purpose of indicating the nature of the contents of the volume to those who wish to buy. The author having no M.S. or notes has compiled the lecture, he says, from the collation of these more or less inaccurate newspaper reports. A little more graceful acknowledgment of the indebtedness would not have come amiss.

The Deutsche-Ostasiatische-Gesellschaft (German East Asiatic Society) on April 18th held its annual meeting at Berlin, the Commander of the 1st Army Corps, General von der Goltz, being in the chair. A number of well-known people interested in the Far East were present. Dr. Vossberg-Reckow, in an eloquent speech, took a survey of German-Asiatic politics of last year, and especially dwelt on the question of the making of new ways of communication in Asia and the conditions for the producing of industrial raw material, &c. After this much-applauded speech General A. D von Zeppelin referred to the East Asiatic journey of inspection made by the Russian Minister of Finances, M. de Witte, and especially spoke about the possibility of seeing an agricultural competition organised in Siberia, which point will be further considered by the society. The Board of Directors was re elected, and Baron von Gaul and General von Liebert were appointed vice-presidents.

THE CHINESE OPIUM TAX.

In the House of Commons on the 5th ult. Mr. H. J. Wilson asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that the Government of the Province of Canton last year, with a view to meeting its share of the indemnities imposed upon China, instituted an additional tax upon opium, both native-grown and imported, which was in operation for about two months; that, in September last, the British Consul at Canton remonstrated against this additional tax, on the ground that it was inconsistent with the Treaty obligations of China, and that it was in consequence discontinued; whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs had sanctioned this action of the Consul, having regard to Clause 5 of the additional Article to the Chefoo Convention, signed in London in 1885, which provided for further taxation on imported opium, subject only to the condition that such taxation equally applied to the native drug.

Viscount Cranborne: An attempt was made last year to levy an additional tax upon opium. Under the prescribed conditions this could only have operated so as to discriminate in favour of native opium. But it was also in violation of Clause 2 of the Additional Article of the Chefoo Convention, because it was to be levied at the port and while the packages were still unopened for consumption, in which case the amount of the tax is, by the Clause, specifically limited. His Majesty's Minister at Peking and His Majesty's Consul-General at Canton, acting under the instructions of His Majesty's Government, protested against the tax, and the new regulations were withdrawn.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

DESTROYERS FOR THE FAR EAST.

A St. Petersburg despatch states that of the nine torpedo-destroyers which were built and delivered last year by the Neva Shipbuilding Yard seven are now being fitted out at Cronstadt for the voyage to the Far East.

The Russo-Chinese frontier along the Amur river continues to be the scene of disorders and skirmishes, and the Ministry of Marine has just ordered from a Russian shipbuilding yard 20 flat-bottomed gunboats fitted with turbine-motors for service on the Amur.

VICEROY CHANG CHIH-TUNG AT COURT.

The following is a description received from the North with reference to what took place on the 19th ult., the first time Viceroy Chang Chih-tung presented himself at the Palace to pray for an Imperial audience on his arrival in Peking. His Excellency went to report himself at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 19th ult., at the Privy Cabinet Office, and stayed there until their Majesties were ready to receive him. Whilst waiting for the summons into the Imperial presence the Empress Dowager sent to H.E., borne by numbers of eunuchs, various kinds of cakes and confectionery, birds' nest candy being one of them, also a moon-shaped silk fan with a water-colour painting on it by her Majesty's own hand, a large scroll with the single character "Fu" (prosperity) on it, and a couple of smaller scrolls, all written by her Majesty's own hand. Half an hour afterwards H.E. was summoned to the presence in the Chingcien Throne-hall, where no one else, excepting her Majesty and the Viceroy and a couple of attendant eunuchs, was present. The private audience lasted nearly an hour, and upon H.E. backing out of the Imperial presence he was told that her Majesty had graciously given him a pony with its accompanying trappings to ride upon within the precincts of the Forbidden City.—*N.-C. Daily News.*

With reference to the disappearance of Mr. W. Simpson, one of the passengers on the *Tamba Maru*, on March 24th, the *Straits Times* understands that he left a will bequeathing his whole estate, including the "La Minerva" cigar factory in Manila, to his sister in Scotland.

A POSSIBLE DANGER TO NAVIGATION.

There is every reason to believe, the *N.-C. Daily News* remarks, that changes due to volcanic action are constantly going on in this part of the world in the bed of the ocean, and our contemporary publishes the following letter received by the Harbour Master's department at Shanghai:—

S.S. *Glenesk*,
Shanghai, 28th May, 1903.

To the Harbour Master,
Shanghai.

Dear Sir,—I have the honour to submit the following report:—On the 14th inst. whilst on passage from Singapore to Hongkong I passed about one mile East of the Charlotte Bank (7° 8 N. 107° 35 E.) and noticed a very decided line of broken water on the centre of the bank. As the sea elsewhere was quite smooth and the wind almost *nil* I imagine there must be less water than shown on charts. I have during the last 16 years passed this place in all sorts of weather and never saw broken water before and have therefore deemed it proper to report the matter to you, having also reported the matter in Hongkong.—I am, Sir, &c.,

(Sd.) John Rafferty,
Master, *Glenesk*.

HONGKONG.

Mr. T. I. Rose having returned to the Colony, has resumed his duties as secretary of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.

The marriage of Miss Blake, daughter of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Blake, to Captain J. B. Arbuthnot (Scots Guards) takes place at St. John's Cathedral on Monday next, the 8th inst., at 5 p.m.

On the 2nd inst., Police Sergeant Kerr arrested at 10, Cheung San Lane East a native woman who was in possession of $97 in counterfeit twenty-cent pieces, so palpably spurious that it it difficult to conceive how they could be passed as good.

On the complaint of Dr. Pearse, Acting Medical Officer of Health, Lai Tun, a hawker, was fined $25, with the option of six weeks' hard labour, at the Police Court on the 3rd inst., for removing clothing from a plague house without a permit.

A movement has been started to open a lodge of the Royal and Ancient Order of Buffaloes in the Colony, to be called the King Edward VII Lodge No. 910. A meeting of the promoters was held on the 29th ult. to elect office-bearers and arrange details.

It is satisfactory to note that the weekly return of cases of communicable diseases, contains, apart from the deplorably heavy plague returns, only one case of small-pox and one of puerperal fever. Against all other diseases appears the word *nil*.

With the *Tamar* and the *Robin* in dock, and with the departure yesterday of our solitary protector of the last few days—the Portuguese gunboat *Diu*—the man-of-war anchorage is entirely vacant. The *Ocean*, which is at Mirs Bay, leaves for Weihaiwei to-morrow.

The *London Gazette* notifies that the King has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Mr. Arthur W. Brewin, Registrar-General of the Colony of Hongkong, to be an official member of the Legislative Council of the Colony for so long as he shall hold the said office of Registrar-General.

The Hongkong correspondent of the *N.-C. Daily News*, referring to the appointment of Mr. S. T. Dunn as Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, remarks:—There is scope for the display of a good deal of energy in this department, not only in connection with the botany of the Colony and South China, but also in the introduction of new products into the New Territory and the afforestation of the slopes of numerous hills there and on the various islands lately acquired. Even in Hongkong the work of afforestation has for years been very partially carried on.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Canton, 4th June.—Exports.—Re-reels—A contract of 1[illegible] Bales each Nos. 1 & 2, Soey Wo Cheong, has been b[illegible]ked at $[illegible]50 ave[illegible]age. Re-reels.—Th[illegible]re being still nothing offering in th[illegible]s class, subjoined quo[illegible]ations are purely nominal. At the moment of closing, a small sale is reported forward of 10 Bales each N[illegible]s. 1 & 2 at $840 aver[illegible]ge. Filatures.—The active enquiry for Europe reported in our last has held throughout the fortnight and a large business has been done at steadily advancing prices. The settlements given below are practically all in New Silk, wh[illegible]ch has sold up to $1,050 for Wing Cheong Sing 11/13, $1,000 for King Shing's Gold Lion 13/15, $890 for Yee Woo Cheong 18/22. A parcel of 10 Bales Po King Wo 9/11 was done at $1,070. This size, although in very keen demand, remains out of supply and it is almost impossible to get reelers to quote a price. Values of Best 3e Ordre have steadily advanced in the producing districts. $870 average has been paid for 11/13, 13/15, 14/18, and there are buyers to-day of this assortment at $880. The size of 11/13 is very scarce and dear, being quoted alone at $925/930. The Second Crop is reported somewhat damaged by continuous wet weather, but we cannot yet definitely state to what extent. Short-reels.—There is nothing doing in this class for America. Kwong Shun Cheong sold out the balance of his 6th crop reelings (3[illegible] Bales 14/16[illegible] to Europe at $990. Waste Silk.—Our quotations for Steam apply to Old Season's stock, which is now almost exhausted. A sale of Ext. Sel. opened was made at $139½, but prices have since hardened for best selections of this grade. Pierced Cocoons opened with a sale of 1[illegible]0 Bales, First Crop, at $97, an isolated transaction considerably below ruling market rates.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 5th June.—No arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 5th June.—The prices are the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White	$8.4[illegible]	to	$8.45	pcl.
Do. „ 2, White	7.65	to	7.70	„
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	6.05	to	6.10	„
Do. „ 2, Brown	5.90	to	5.95	„
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.25	to	8.30	„
Do. „ 1, White	7.55	to	7.60	„
Do. „ 1, Brown	5.95	to	6.00	„
Do. „ 2, Brown	5.80	to	5.85	„
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.25	to	12.30	„
Shekloong „	10.55	to	10.60	„

RICE.

HONGKONG, 5th June.—The upward tendency continues, holders being firm.

Saigon, Ordinary	$3.55	to	3.65
„ Round, Good quality	4.95	to	6.00
„ Long	5.25	to	5.30
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	4.25	to	4.30
„ Garden, „ No. 1	4.40	to	4.45
„ White,	5.35	to	5.40
„ Fine Cargo	5.40	to	5.55

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Patroclus*, sailed on the 26th May. For London:—10 cases fans, 21 cases cigars, 11 cases black woodware, 14 cases chinaware, 26 cases private effects, 215 rolls matting, 50 bales waste silk, 10 bales canes 103 bales feathers, 100 casks ginger, 1,906 packages merchandise. For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For London and/or Glasgow:—100 casks ginger. For Havre, London and/or Hamburg:—20 cases bristles. For London, Continent and/or U.S.:—779 half-chests tea. For Glasgow:—9 cases private effects.

Per steamer *Zieten*, sailed on 27th May. For Colombo:—500 bags sugar, 300 bags Beans. For Aden:—1,500 bags sugar, 100 cases cassia, 20 bundles cassia, 19 rolls chinaware. For Odessa:—942 chests tea, 54 boxes tea. For Naples:—188 chests tea, 100 boxes cassia. For Genoa:—549 bales waste silk, 828 bales raw silk, 100 boxes cassia, 20 rolls matting, 10 barrels oil, 6 cases oil. For Antwerp:—235 bales bamboo scraps, 25 rolls matting, 20 boxes bristles, 8 bales feathers, 1 case bristles. For Antwerp and Hamburg:—10 boxes bristles. For Amsterdam:—115 rolls matting, 5 cases camphorwood trunks, 3 cases chinaware, 2 bales canes, 1 case copperware. For Rotterdam:—140 rolls matting, 103 bales canes, 2 cases ginger. For Bremen:—140 chests tea, 49 boxes tea, 10 cases effects, 5 cases chinaware. For Bremen and Hamburg:—21 chests tea, 1 box tea. For Hamburg:—501 chests tea, 347 bales feathers, 230 bales canes, 116 half-chests tea, 106 packages merchandise, 47 packages tea, 43 bales rattancore, 21 cases chinaware, 7 cases human hair, 6 cases paper 6 rolls matting, 4 cases feathers, 4 cases ginger, 3 cases blackwoodware, 1 case cigars. For Hamburg and London:—55 boxes bristles, 20 cases essential oil. For Hamburg, London and Bremen:—86 chests tea. For Konigsberg, St. Petersburg:—51 chests tea. For London:—360 rolls matting. For Copenhagen:—67 bales feathers.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 5th June.—Very small business; market very dull. Stock about 4,000 bales.

Bombay	22.00 to 23.00	picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	23.00 to 26.00	„
Shanghai and Japanese,	27.00 to 27.50	„
Tungchow and Ningpo,	27.00 to 27.50	„

Sale:—85 bales.

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong 5th June:—The market during the past fortnight has been somewhat featureless, but considering the season of the year a moderate enquiry has been experenced and a fair amount of business put through at or about late rates. The prevalence of famine and brigandage in most of the consuming districts continues to deter our dealers and curtail operations. The Bombay market is reported strong and active, but the fluctuations on the other side are not reflected here and importers have been controlled purely by local conditions. At the close, the demand still continues and both buyers and sellers appear satisfied to work on present basis.

Local Manufacture:—Business reported has been small, say about 400 bales, comprising 100 bales No. 10s at $102½ and 280 bales No. 12s at $105, all forward delivery.

Japanese Yarn:—Demand has fallen off considerably, but values are maintained and about 425 bales have changed hands on the basis of $132, for Settsu No. 20s.

Raw Cotton:—With the exception of a single sale of 80 bales superfine Bengal at $25, another blank fortnight has been experienced both in Indian and China Cotton. Stocks of the former are estimated at 4,500 bales Bengal and of Chinese at 600 bales (small). Quotations are Indian $20 to $25, and $25 to $28, Chinese.

Exchange on India after slight fluctuations closes to-day at Rs. 125½ for T/T and Rs. 125¼ for Post; on Shanghai 71⅛ and on Yokohama 81⅛.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 30th ultimo, viz:—

Indian:—Market steady, with fair enquiry; sales aggregating 4,412 bales, including 1,650 bales No. 10s., 450 bales No. 12s., 450 bales No. 16s and 1,862 bales No. 20s, market closing firm, though stocks were increasing and estimated at about 40,000 bales.

Japanese:—There has again been a fair enquiry and sales of about 1,500 bales have been effected at Tls. 87½ to Tls. 96 for No. 16s. and Tls. 99 to 103 for No. 20s., market closing steady.

Local:—There has been more doing in these threads; business reported amounting to about 5,000 bales No. 14s. and 16s. on the basis of Tls. 87 to 89 and Tls. 90¼ to 91¼ respectively, market closing firm.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG 5th June.—Amongst the sales reported during the week are the following:—

			per bale	
Bombay—Nos. 10	to	20, ...	$ 90.00	to $128.00
English—Nos. 16	to	24, ...	114.00	to 120.00
„ 22	to	24, ...	120.00	to 128.00
„ 28	to	32, ...	136.00	to 142.00
„ 38	to	42, ...	155.00	to 170.00
COTTON PIECE GOODS—			per piece.	
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.			2.30	to 2.40
7 lbs.			2.50	to 2.80
8.4 lbs.			3.50	to 4.25
9 to 10 lbs.			4.30	to 5.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.			2.90	to 3.25
58 to 60 „			3.50	to 4.00
64 to 66 „			4.25	to 5.75
Fine			6.00	to 8.50
Book-folds			5.00	to 8.00
Victoria Lawns—12 yards			0.85	to 1.75
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.			2.30	to 2.80
7lbs. (32 „), „			2.50	to 3.00
6lbs. (32 „), Mexs.			2.50	to 3.00
7lbs. (32 „), „			3.10	to 3.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)			3.30	to 4.05
Drills, English—40 yds., 13¾ to 14 lbs.			4.75	to 7.30
FANCY COTTONS—				
Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.			1.50	to 5.50
Brocades—Dyed			—	to —
DAMASKS—			per yard	
Chintzes—Assorted			—	to —
Velvets—Black, 22 in			0.20	to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.			0.26	to 0.29
			per dozen	
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk			0.37	to 5.00
WOOLLENS—			per yard	
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.			0.75	to 2.25
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths			1.25	to 3.60
			per piece	
Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs.			7.45	to 9.50
Assorted			7.60	to 9.65
Camlets—Assorted			13.50	to 38.00
Lastings—30 yd., 31 inches Assorted			14.00	to 21.00
Orleans—Plain			10.00	to —
			per pair	
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.			0.65	to 0.90
Fine quality,			1.60	to 2.50
METALS—			per picul	
Iron—Nail Rod			4.65	to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.			4.65	to —
Swedish Bar			4.70	to —
Small Round Rod			5.00	to —
Hoop ⅛ to 11/2 in.,			6.10	to —
Wire, 16/25,			9.50	to —
Wire Rope Old			3.50	to —
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop			8.90	to —
Australian			8.90	to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.			43.00	to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.			43.00	to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.			43.00	to —
Composition Nails			61.00	to —
Japan Copper, Slabs			39.00	to —
Tin			92.00	to —
			box.	per
Tin-Plates			7.70	to —
			per cwt. cas	
Steel ⅛ to ⅛			6.70	to —

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 5th June, 1903.—General dullness has continued to prevail in our market during the past week, and there is again but little of special interest to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais have been booked at $670 and $675 and are in further request at the higher rate. The latest London quotation is unchanged at £63. Nationals continue in request, and are now enquired for at $27.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions under the influence of forced sales have declined to $500 sellers after sales at this rate and $505. China Traders have sold at $61 and continue in request. Cantons are in demand at $176. North Chinas and Yangtzes are unchanged at last quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have advanced to $325 with sales and further buyers. Chinas have sold at $84 and are in further request at this figure.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos have been booked at $37½ and $37 and a further demand exists at the lower rate. Indo-Chinas have improved to some extent, and are wanted at $107 after sales at this rate and $108. China and Manilas have been disposed of at $25½, and Shell Transports at £1. 7s. 6d. Douglases have sellers at $43. Star Ferries (old) have been booked at $25¾ and (new) at $15½, and continue in request at these rates.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have been sold at $106 and $107 and close with sellers at the higher rate. Luzons are unchanged at $12 sellers.

MINING.—Punjoms continue on offer at $3, and Charbonnages at $600. Raubs after sales at $9 are in some request at $8¾. Jelebus are quiet at $1¾.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have improved their position and can now be placed at $216. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have advanced to $90 buyers after small sales at $88 and $89. New Amoy Docks continue quiet at $40. Farnhams close firm with buyers at the improved rate of Tls. 190.

LANDS, HOTELS & BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue quiet with small sales and further sellers at $170. Kowloon Lands have declined to $39 sellers. West Points are slightly firmer with buyers at $52. Hongkong Hotels continue in request at $149, and Oriente Hotels at $30. Humphreys Estates have sold at $12¼ and more shares are wanted at the rate.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have declined to Tls. 38 sellers; and Hongkongs are in the market at $16 without finding buyers.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements are firmer again with buyers at $24½. China Borneos are easier with sellers at $10¼. Watsons have sold at $14¼ and more shares are procurable at this rate. Electrics (old) are wanted at $13 and (new) at $7. Ropes can be placed at the improved rate of $135. Bell's Asbestos have advanced to $4½ buyers. Powells have been disposed of at the reduced rate of $9. China Light and Powers have declined to $6½ sellers.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai ...	$125	$675, buyers / L'don, £63.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	$27, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£1	$10, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£1	$4½, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	$10	$40, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	$12	$10¼, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ld.	$20	$6½, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	$10	$9.85, sellers
China Sugar	$100	$107, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.	$500	$350, sellers
Philippine Tobacco Invest. Co., Ld.	$50	$18.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 38, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 4[illegible].
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160.
Hongkong	$100	$16, sellers
Dairy Farm	$6	$11½, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	$25	$49, sellers
Green Island Cement.	$10	$24½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	$50	$40, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	$10	$140, buyers
Hongkong Electric	$10 / $5	$13, buyers / $7, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	$100	$320.
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ld.	$10	$13½, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	$50	$149, buyers
Hongkong Ice.	$25	$240, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	$50	$90, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	$50	$135, buyers
H. & W. Dock	$50	$215, buyers
Insurance—		
Canton.....	$50	$176, buyers
China Fire	$20	$84, sales & buyers
China Traders'.....	$25	$61, buyers
Hongkong Fire.....	$50	$325, buyers
North China.....	£25	Tls. 220.
Straits	$20	$1, nominal
Union	$100	$500, sellers
Yangtsze.....	$60	$130, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	$100	$170, sellers
Humphreys Estate.	$10	$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	$30	$39, sellers
West Point Building	$50	$52, buyers
Luzon Sugar.....	$100	$12, sellers
Manila Invest. Co., Ld.	$50	$15, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs 250	$600, sellers
Jelebu	$5	$1¼.
Punjom	$10¼	$3, sellers
Do. Preference...	$1	35 cents, sellers
Raubs	$18	$8.75, sellers
New Amoy Dock	$62½	$40.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	$50	$3[illegible], buyers
Powell, Ld.....	$10	$9, sales
Robinson Co. Piano, Ld.	$50	$50.
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	$50 / $25	$27. / nominal
Douglas Steamship	$50	$43, sellers
H., Canton and M...	$15	$37, buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	$107, buyers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.....	£1	£1. 7s. 6d.
Star Ferry.....	$10 / $5	$25¼ sales & buy. / $15¼ sales & buy.
Tebrau Planting Co....	$5	nominal.
United Abestos.....	$4	$9.
Do.....	$10	$155.
Universal Trading Co., Ld	$5	$23, buyers
Watkins Ld.....	$10	$7¼, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S...	$10	$14¼, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 28th May, 1903.—Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their report for this date state:—During the last week we have to chronicle an increasing tightness of money, which has acted adversely on our market. A further fall has taken place in Langkats, this stock being the most sensitive one, due to the difficulty of getting advances on it. MARINE INSURANCE.—The only local business reported is a sale of North Chinas at Tls. 222½. SHIPPING.—In Tug and Cargo Boats there is no business reported. The amalgamated Company has issued notice to the Shareholders regarding applications for their shares in the new Company. Taku Tug and Lihhter Co. shares, sellers at Tls. 50. DOCKS AND WHARVES.—S C. Farnham, Boyd and Co.—On the 21st cash shares were sold at $186; On the 22nd at Tls. 185/186¼ with sales at 187½ for May and 190 for June. On the 23rd Settlement shares were placed at 187½ and 192½ July. On the 26th cash and Settlement shares were dealt in at 185, with sales at 190 for June and 192½ July. On the 25th cash shares were placed at 185 and 182½ with sales at 190 and 188¾ for June. The market closes with buyers at 182½. S. and H. Wharves.—Business has been done at Tls. 190 cash. 300 July and 305 August. At 292½ for the Settlement, again at 290 cash and 310 September. SUGAR COMPANIES.—No business reported. MINING.—C. E. and M. Co.—Shares have been placed at Tls. 7 for be rer scrip. Weihaiwei Gold Mining can be had at $10. LANDS.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 170½. INDUSTRIAL.—No business to report in Cotton Shares. Low Kung Mows.—These are enquired for at Tls. 40, but without finding sellers. Shanghai Ices have been dealt in at Tls. 23 and 22½. Paper and Pulps have been placed at Tls 122½ Maatschappij, etc., in Langkat:—A considerable business has been done in this. The market opened on the 21st with cash sales at Tls. 295 and 302½, with sales at 295 May, 305/297½ June, 302½/305 July. On the 22nd at Tls. 295 May, 297½ and 300 June, 307½ July, 317½ September and 322½ October. On the 23rd cash shares found buyers at 290 with sales for June at 295, 315 for September, and 320 October. On the 25th cash at 290, 297½ June and 315 September. On the 26th at 285 and 280 for cash and 312½, for September. On the 27th 280 and 274 cash, 285 and 28[illegible] June, 307½ September, 302½ October. The market closes with buyers at 270 for cash, but there is a demand for forward shares at an advance on the cash rate of Tls. 5 per month. The Stock will be at once affected by easy money, and a rise we think is certain. Sumatras.—No business reported. Shanghai Waterworks business has again been done at Tls.410. STOCK & HOTEL.—Astors have been placed at $30 and 31, there are buyers at the latter rate. Moutries have been placed at $63.75. MISCELLANEOUS.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 63, and new "Shanghai Mercury" shares at Tls. 55. LOANS.—No business reported.

EXCHANGE.*

FRIDAY, 5th June.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8 1/16
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8⅛
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8 3/16
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/8 3/16
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/8 7/16
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/8 9/16
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	210
Credits 4 months' sight	214½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand...	171½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	40⅞
Credits, 60 days' sight	41⅛
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	125¼
Bank, on demand	125½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	125¼
Bank, on demand	125½
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71⅛
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	81⅜
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c.pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	101¼
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1½ p.c.pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c.pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	$11.85
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	62
BAR SILVER, per oz.	24 5/16

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 5th June.—The market continues in about the same condition as last reported. There is very little demand for tonnage from Saigon; to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul being last rate paid and to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul. From north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul offering for wet sugar and to Japan a steamer has been closed for July loading, at 35 cents per picul. From Iloilo to Japan, 26 and 27 cents per picul according to size and position. Newchwang to Canton, 18 candareens per picul last. From Wuhu to Canton, 18 candareens per picul for rice and 43 candareens for ground nuts. Coal freights continue weak. From Moji to Swatow, $2.40; to Hongkong, $1.80; to Singapore, $2 per ton. Monthly charters. The German steamer *Taicheong* has been chartered for Haiphong trade, on private terms. The following are the settlements:—

Szechuen—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Newchwang to Canton (16,000 piculs), 23 cents per picul.

Kashing—British steamer, 1,431 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 23 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 22 cents per picul (16,000 piculs).

Taurus—Norwegian steamer, monthly, 1,367 tons, Moji to Hongkong, $1.80 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Moji to Port Arthur, $2.25 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,184 tons, Moji or Kuchinotzu to Swatow $2 4 per ton.

Seirstad—Norwegian steamer, 617 tons, Hongay to Canton, $2.00 per ton.

Chunshan—British steamer, 1,282 tons, 3 ports north coast Java to Japan, 35 cents per picul July.)

Airlie—British steamer, 1,492 tons, Hankow to Swatow, 27 cardareens per picul.

Triglav—Austrian steamer, 618 tons, Wuhu to Swatow, 21 candareens per picul.

Themis—Norwegian steamer, 1,2308 tons, Wuhu and/or Chinkiang to Canton, 18 candareens and 43 candareens per picul.

M. Struve—German steamer, 1,000 tons, Chinkiang to Canton, 4 candareens per picul (ground nuts).

Clitus—British steamer, 1,588 tons, Chinkiang to Canton, 17 candareens per picul (ground nuts).

Tritos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16½ cents per picul.

Phuyuen—French steamer, 1 246 Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Thea—German steamer, 934 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Arnold Luyken—German steamer, 1,095 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

Nanshan—British steamer, 1,299 tons, three ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul.

Tailee—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 26 cents per picul.

Skuld—Norwegian steamer, 913 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 25 cents per picul.

Formosa—British steamer, 674 tons, sold for about £10,000.

Taicheong—German steamer, 828 tons, monthly, 4 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR ANTWERP. *Peleus, Alcinous, Antenor, Benmohr, Sado Maru, Glenfarg Bombay, Kawachi Maru, Stentor, Dardanus.*

FOR LONDON.—*Valetta, Benmohr, Glenfarg, Peleus, Calchas, Alcinous, Antenor, Sado Maru, Bombay, Kawachi Maru, Stentor, Dardanus.*

FOR LIVERPOOL.—*Prometheus Hyson.*

FOR MARSEILLES.—*Alcinous, Peleus, Antenor, Bombay, Sado Maru, Oceanien, Princess Marie, Kawachi Maru. Stentor, Dardanus.*

FOR BREMEN.—*Stuttgart.*

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Princess Marie, Strassburg, Wurtzburg, Suevia, Nurnberg, Badenia.*

FOR GENAO.—*Benmohr.*

FOR TRIESTE.—*Moravia.*

FOR NEW YORK.—*Charles Tiberghien, Arura Heathford.*

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—*ShinanoMaru, Telemachus, Tosa Maru, Olympia.*

FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India, Tartar.*

FOR PORTLAND (OR.).—*Indrasamha.*

FOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—*Empire, Kumano Maru, Chingtu.*

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—*Bombay Maru.*

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND PENANG.—*Capri.*

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—*Catherine Apcar, Namsang.*

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May— ARRIVALS

28, Hunan British str., from Wuhu.
28, Kanagawa Maru Jap. str., from Shanghai.
29, Baron Balfour, British str., from Moji.
29, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
29, Melpomene, Austrian str., from Shanghai.
29, Rajaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
29, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
29, Taicheong, German str., from Saigon.
29, Tientsin, British str., from Chinkiang.
29, Yochow, British str., from Wuhu.
30, Algerine, British sloop, from Mirs Bay.
30, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Coast Ports.
30, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
30, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
30, Sangkiang, British str., from Manila.
30, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
30, Wineland, Danish str., from Java.
31, Annam, French str., from Marseilles.
31, Arnold Luyken, German str., from Saigon.
31, Elita Nossack, German str., from Wuhu.
31, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Wuhu.
31, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
31, Lycemoon, German str., from Canton.
31, Marie, Swedish str., from Hamburg.
31, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
31, Surprise, French g-bt., from K'chauwan.
31, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.

June—
1, Apenrade, German str., from Pakhoi.
1, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
1, City of Peking, Amr. str., from S. F cisco.
1, Haldis, Norwegian str., from Rangoon.
1, Hipsang, British str., from Shanghai.
1, Hongbee, British str., from Singapore.
1, Kagoshima Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
1, Nanning, British str., from Calcutta.
1, Petrarch, German str., from Wuhu.
1, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
1, Salazie, French str., from Shanghai.
1, Segovia, German str., from Shanghai.
1, Tientsin, British str., from Kobe.
1, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
2, Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., from Saigon.
2, Capri, Italian str., from Bombay.
2, Fausang, British str., from Chefoo.
2, Heathfield, British str., from Moji.
2, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
2, Macduff, British str., from Liverpool.
2, Nubia, German str., from Shanghai.
2, Nurnberg, German str., from Hamburg.
2, Seistad, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
2, Shinano Maru, Norw. str., from Seattle.
2, Tamba Maru Jap str., from Singapore.
2, Yunnan, British str., from Shanghai.
3, Chinkiang, British str., from Wuhu.
3, Empire, British str., from Coast Ports.
3, Kowloon, German str., from Shanghai.
3, Kweiyang, British str., from Iloilo.
3, Lisa, Norwegian str., from Chinkiang.
3, Oopack, British str., from Liverpool.
3, Wingsang, British str., from Chinkiang.
3, Woosung, British str., from Wuhu.
3, Yangtsze, British str., from Glasgow.
4, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
4, Eastern, British str., from Sydney.
4, Hinsang, British str., from Swatow.
4, Hupeh, British str., from Chinkiang.
4, Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
4, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai
4, Massilia, British str., from Bombay.
4, Rosetta Maru, Japanese str., from Manila.
4, Sabine Rickmers, British str., from S'pore.
4, Siam, Danish str., from Antwerp.
4, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu
4, Ulabrand, Norwegian str., from Moji.
4, Valetta, British str., from Shanghai.

May— DEPARTURES.

29, Borneo, German str., for Jesselton.
29, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
29, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., for Canton.
29, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
29, Haimun, British str., for Tamsui.
29, Holstein, German str., for Swatow.
29, Hürup, British str., for Moji.
29, Malacca, British str., for London.
29, Namshan, British str., for Swatow.
29, Princesse Marie, Dan. str., for Shanghai.
29, Verona, German str., for Kutchinotsu.
29, Yochow, British str., for Canton.
30, Cambodge, French str., for Taku.
30, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
30, Hoihao, French str., for Haiphong.
30, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., for S. F'cisco.
30, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
31, Kong Beng, German str., for Bangkok.
30, Kumaing, British str., for Calcutta.
30, Monterey, U.S. monitor, for Shanghai.
30, Shawmut, American str., for Tacoma.
30, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
31, Annam, French str., for Shanghai.
31, Ayr, Norwegian str., for Moji.
31, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
31, Daigi Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
31, Haiching, British str., for Coast Ports.
31, Kwangping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
31, Manila, British str., for Shanghai.
31, Marie Jebsen, Ger. str., for Singapore.
31, Marburg, German str., for Calcutta.
31, M. Struve, German str., for Chinkiang.
31, Melpomene, Austrian str., for Trieste.
31, Taurus, Norwegian str., for Moji.
31, Themis, Norwegian str., for Woosung.
31, Tientsin, British str., for Canton.

June—
1, Brunhilde, German str., for Newchwang.
1, Koun Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
1, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
1, Lyemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
1, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
1, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
2, Aki Maru, Japanese str., for Seattle.
2, Algerine, British sloop, for Mirs Bay.
2, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
2, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
2, Hipsang, British str., for Canton.
2, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Chefoo.
2, Kagoshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
2, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
2, Rohilla Maru, Japanese str., for Manila.
2, Salazie, French str., for Europe.
3, Anping Maru, Japanese str., for Swatow.
3, Empress of China, Brit. str., for V'couver.
3, Formosa, British str., for Manila.
3, Hailoong, British str., for Swatow.
3, Haldis, Norwegian str., for Amoy.
3, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
3, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
3, Kwangse, British str., for Yokohama.
3, Labor, Norwegian str., for Chinkiang.
3, Lisa, Norwegian str., for Canton.
3, Macduff, British str., for Shanghai.
3, Perla, British str., for Kobe.
3, Segovia, German str., for Hamburg.
3, Shantung, German str., for Singapore.
3, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
3, Tamsui, British str., for Ningpo.
3, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
3, Yunnan, British str., for Canton.
4, Arnold Luyken, German str., for Swatow.
4, Apenrade, German str., for Hoihow.
4, Baron Balfour, British str., for Java
4, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
4, Chinkiang, British str., for Canton.
4, Din, Portuguese gunboat, for Macao.
4, Fausang, British str., for Canton
4, Kingsing, British str., for Shanghai.
4, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
4, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
4, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
4, M. Rickmers, German str., for Nagasaki.
4, Nubia, German str., for Hamburg.
4, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.
4, Surprise, French gunboat, for Amoy.
4, Tamba Maru, Japanese str., for Japan.
4, Tientsin, British str., for London.
4, Triumph, German str., for Pakhoi.
4, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
4, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
4, Yangtsze, British str., for Nagasaki.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Annam*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elisaldo and two children, Messrs. Santiago Elizaldo, E. Pereira Mestre and Major Carmen Quintana; from Batavia, Mr. J. A. Strambe; from Singapore, Capt. C. B. J. Widdrington; Dr. P. H. Meelosky and Mr. Swane; from Saigon, Messrs. Alphonse Causse, Ferrana and P. Martinet: for Shanghai, from Port Said, Mr. P. arandel; from Suez, Mr. Asadian; from Singapore, Mr. Burke Honan; from Saigon, Major Ricour and daughter. Major Morgny, Misses Adelina and Argentina Roca, Revs. Payoude, Petiot and Ampilhac, Messrs. Lavesniere, Dahamel, Lavienbe, L. Jules Wits, Langlais, Henry MacQuer, Bianchi, Revol and Jules Rebier; for Kobe from Marseilles, Rev. Frettenon; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Culty; from Singapore, Mr. H. Brunear.

Per *City of Peking*, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. C. Pemberton, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Fruinthroy, Mr. and Mrs. T. I. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hettig, Dr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. W. O. Fox, Mrs. S. Perry, Mrs. F. A. Blake, Messrs. J. T. Richter, Wm. Brown, A. J. Washburn, G. I. Frank, D. J. Murran, L. S. Webb, W. Troensengaard and A. L. B. Davis.

Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Mrs. Rolland, Rev. and Mrs. J. Goodchild and child, Mrs. Anna, Misses Hughes Church, H. L. Reid and L. Reid, Messrs. Ahmed Ally, Henriot, Kalos and Rapanakis: for Saigon, from Shanghai, Messrs. Moreau and Biffard: for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. F. W. Franks; from Kobe, Mrs. Hatsu Yanagiya and Mrs. C. Nohshima; from Shanghai, Mrs. M. Blanco, Capt. O. Titzschan, Messrs. F. Bennet and Konny: for Colombo, from Yokohama, Lieut.-Col. F. B. Leane; from Shanghai, Mr. Leinas: for Djibouti, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs Morin and three children: for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs Liblain; from Shanghai, Mrs. Marie Martin, Messrs. Reux, Martin, Rousult, Marmier, Sallebert, Kempt, Laubreaux, Girard, Larer, Bellard and Conan.

Per *Massilia*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Atkinson, Staff Sergt. and Mrs. Standage and two children, Sergt. and Mrs. Olive and four children, Mr. J. F. Hayton, Staff Sergt. Wayne; from Marseilles, Mr. P. W. Sergeant; from Bombay, Messrs. L. G. Fraser, W. Gill and W. Anderson; from Colombo, Mr. Mackie: for Shanghai, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Brinage and Mr. Robt. Fryer; from Bombay, Major and Mrs. Cleveland and Mr. Guzdar; from Singapore, Messrs. Alsagoff, Bendgil, Boadilla Colham and Burt.

DEPARTED.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roys, Miss Dorothy and Master David Roys, Mrs. Scudder, Miss R. Lawrence, Miss Lamar, Messrs. C. Schroter, S. S. Somekh, V. Schutz, W. N. Dyer, C. E Maubert, Jones and Chambers; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. W. Dunbar, Mrs. Furukawa, Messrs. A. K. Moosdeen, L. C. Thye and H. Kubata; for Kobe, Mr. G. G. Gatchchick; for Yokohama, Mrs. M. E. Levy and Miss Pratent; for Honolulu, Miss K. L. E. Meyers; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. Duke, Mrs. M. A. Kern, Miss Kern, Miss Adele Nott, Lieut.-Col. H. Landen and Mr. E. B Cook.

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